
KAIRI FUJIYAMA
2
DRAGON EYE

Dragon Eye
Volume 2

Kairi Fujiyama

Translated and adapted by Mari Morimoto

Lettered by North Market Street Graphics



Ballantine Books • New York

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A Del Rey Books Trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by Del Rey Books, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.

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Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2006 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

ISBN 978-0-345-49883-0

Printed in the United States of America

www.delreymanga.com

987654321

Translator/Adapter: Mari Morimoto
Lettering: North Market Street Graphics
Cover design: Yo-Yo Rarandays (Suzuki Yo-Yo, Kawai Rara)

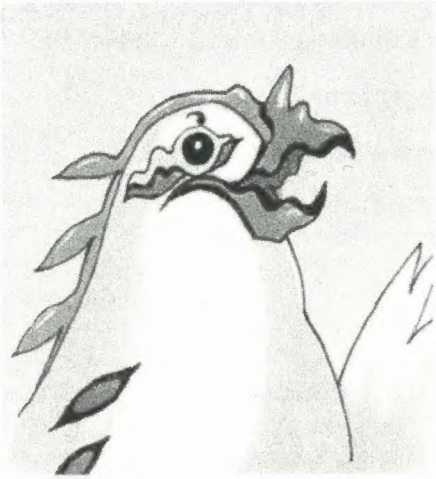
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I've finally mastered
the main character's
hairstyle. But there is still
a lot that I don't know.
Most of these things have
to do with hairstyles...

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When you address someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: **This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.**

-sama: **This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.**

-dono: **This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.**

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. This is known as *yobisute,* and it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

= Dragon Eye =

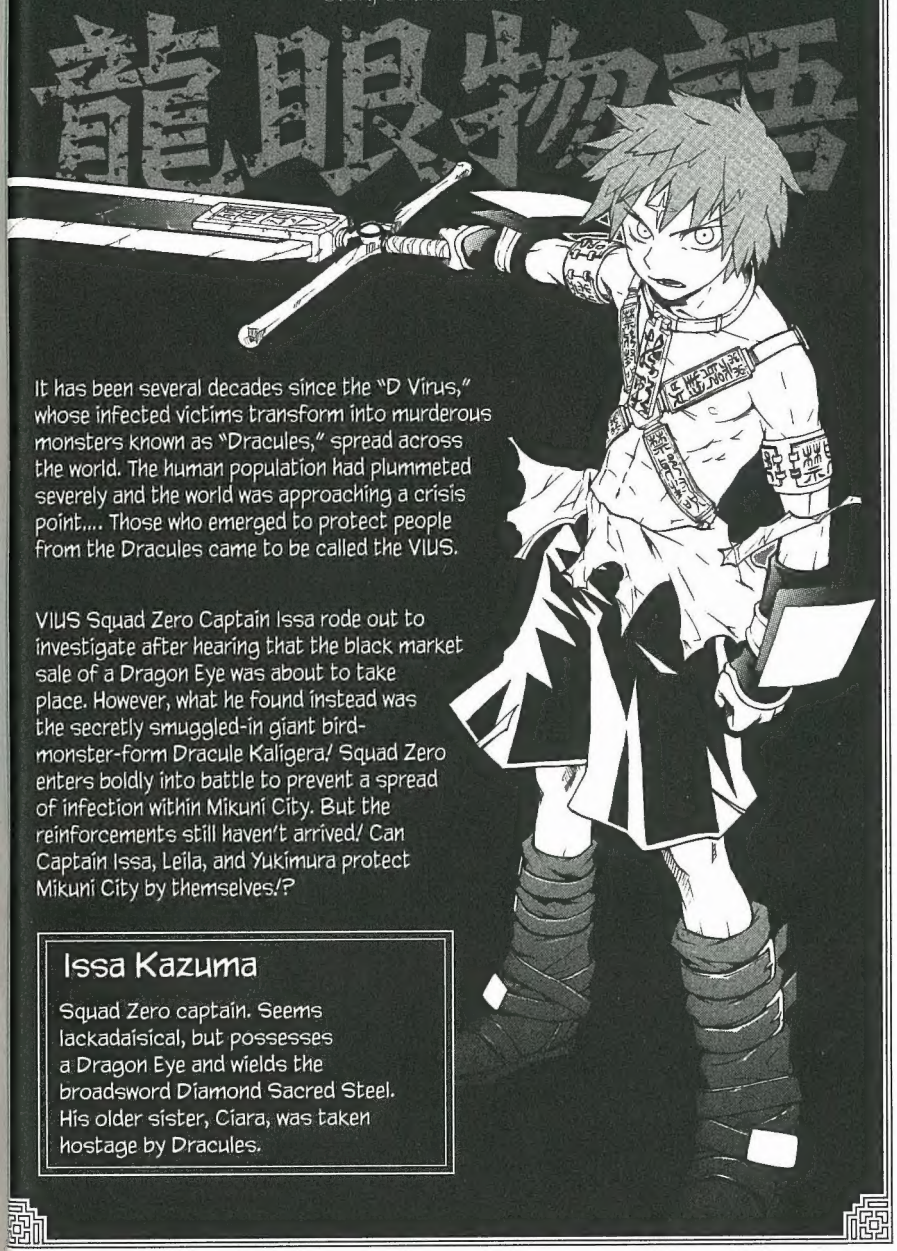
Kairi Fujiyama

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Story of DRAGON EYE

龍眼物語

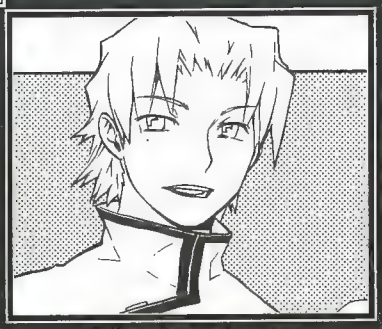


It has been several decades since the "D Virus," whose infected victims transform into murderous monsters known as "Dracules," spread across the world. The human population had plummeted severely and the world was approaching a crisis point.... Those who emerged to protect people from the Dracules came to be called the VIUS.

VIUS Squad Zero Captain Issa rode out to investigate after hearing that the black market sale of a Dragon Eye was about to take place. However, what he found instead was the secretly smuggled-in giant bird-monster-form Dracule Kaligera! Squad Zero enters boldly into battle to prevent a spread of infection within Mikuni City. But the reinforcements still haven't arrived! Can Captain Issa, Leila, and Yukimura protect Mikuni City by themselves!?

Issa Kazuma

Squad Zero captain. Seems lackadaisical, but possesses a Dragon Eye and wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel. His older sister, Ciara, was taken hostage by Dracules.



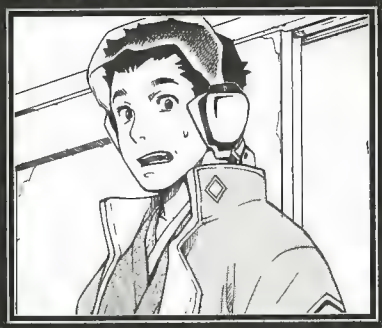
Sôsei Yukimura

A former Squad Five member currently on temporary reassignment to Squad Zero. Believes Issa killed his twin sister—and so he wields twin blades in her memory and secretly plots for vengeance.



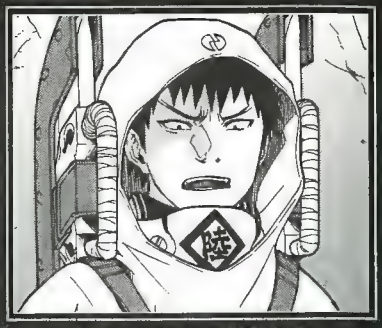
Leila Mikami

Newly inducted VIUS member. When she was little, both of her parents were killed by Dracules. She was, however, saved by a man with a Dragon Eye—which is why she joined VIUS.



Hyûga

Assigned to the Intelligence Corps. Does not have a lot of battle experience but idolizes Issa—perhaps because his first mission was with Issa's squad.

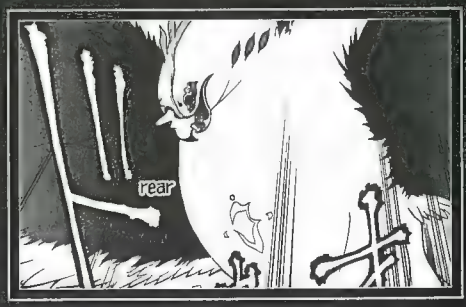


Masamune Hibiki

Squad Six member. Volunteers on missions with the shorthanded Squad Zero. Appears to be young but is quite an accomplished warrior.

[Dracule] Kaligera

A Dracule smuggled into Mikuni under the guise of black-market goods. Although in bird monster-form, he is capable of human speech. Kaligera is very swift and packs a powerful punch. His body is armored by Diamond Skin.



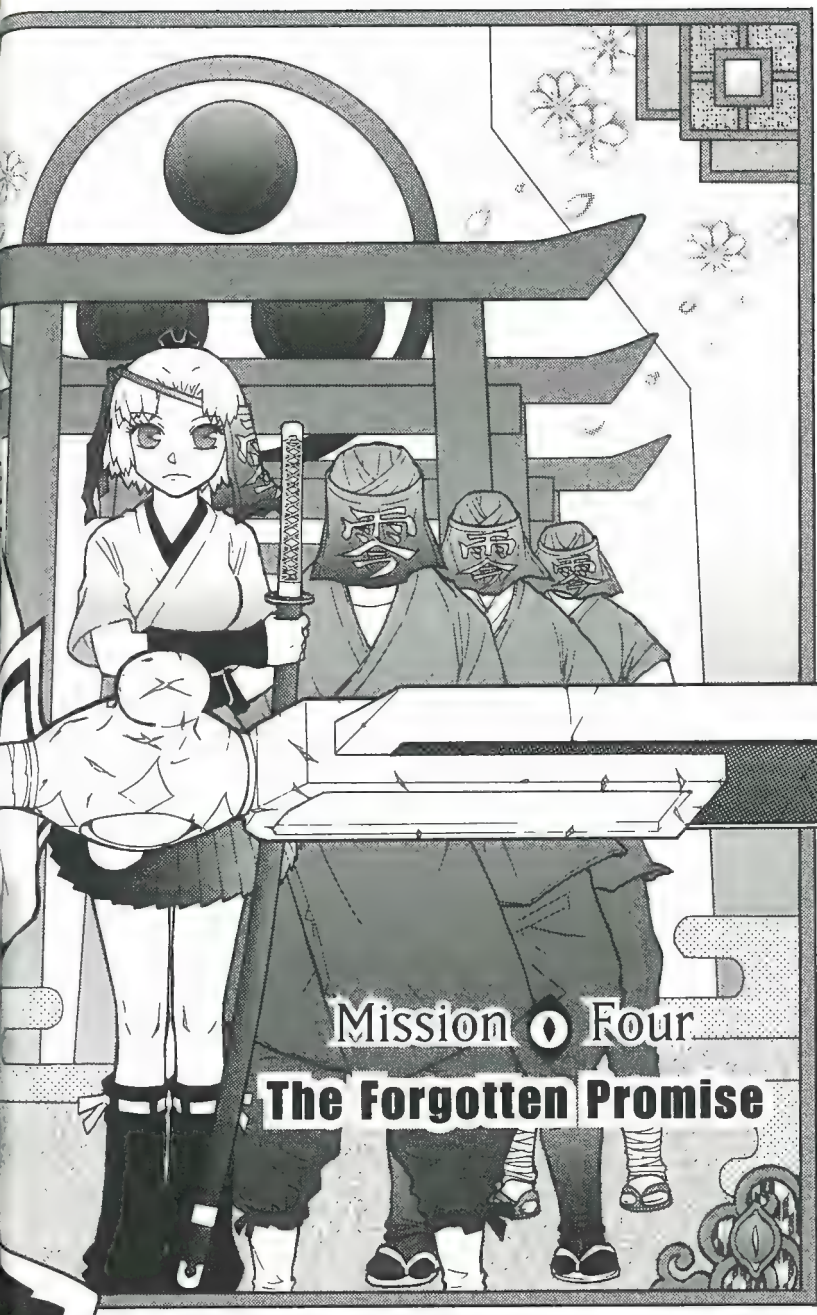
Mission ◈ Four
The Forgotten Promise
5

Mission ◈ Five
The Captain Demoted!?
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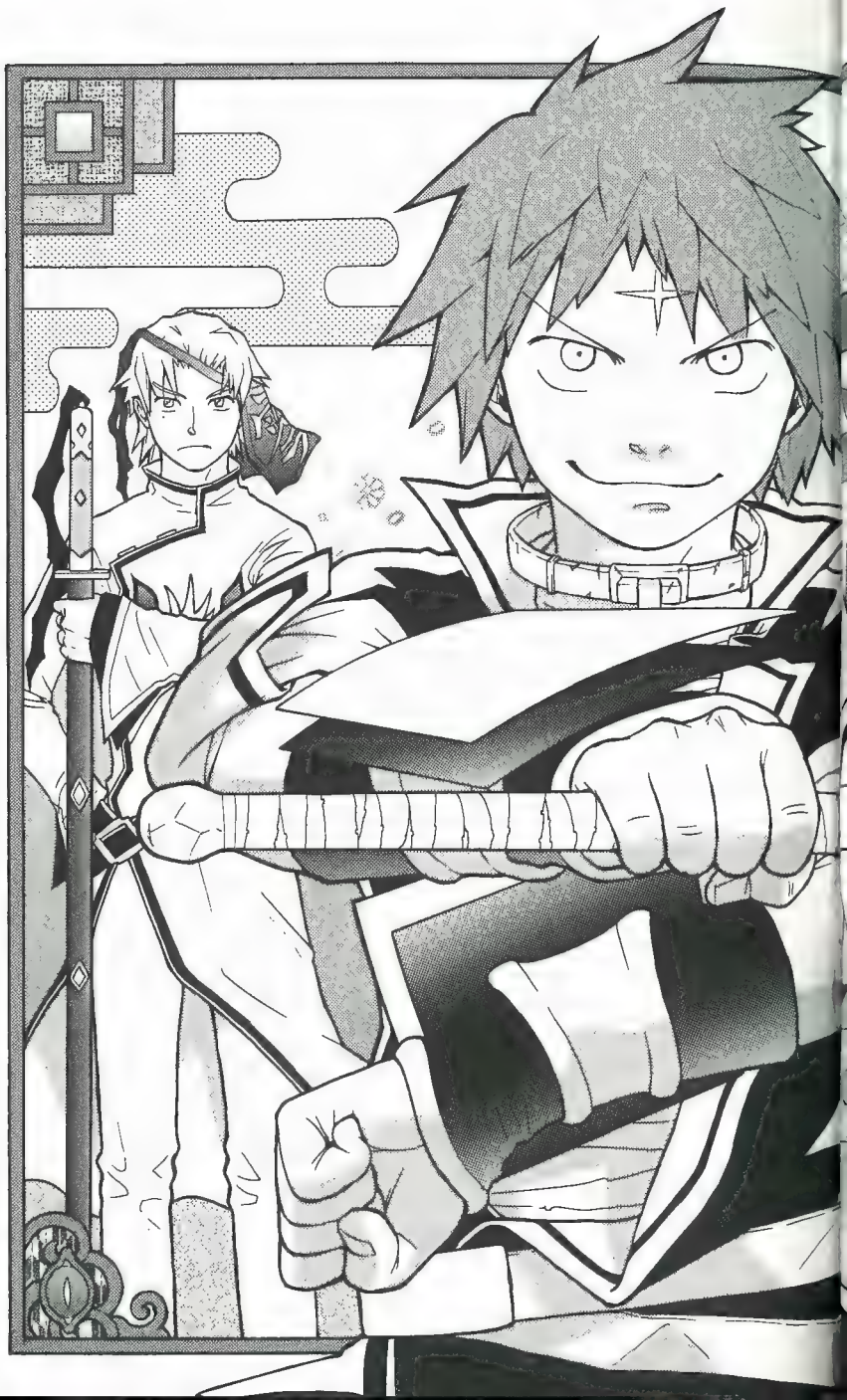
Mission ◈ Six
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188


PANT
trot
PANT
trot
PANT
trot
!
In any case, while he's holding off the Dracule, I've got to get these kids...
trot
trot
trot
What's going on? There's no one around...
So... our reinforce-ments were in time!?
HQ has already deployed forces!?
That's... a Mikuni police tank!?
Vius
O... okay.
Go straight down this road! Don't turn back, all right!!?

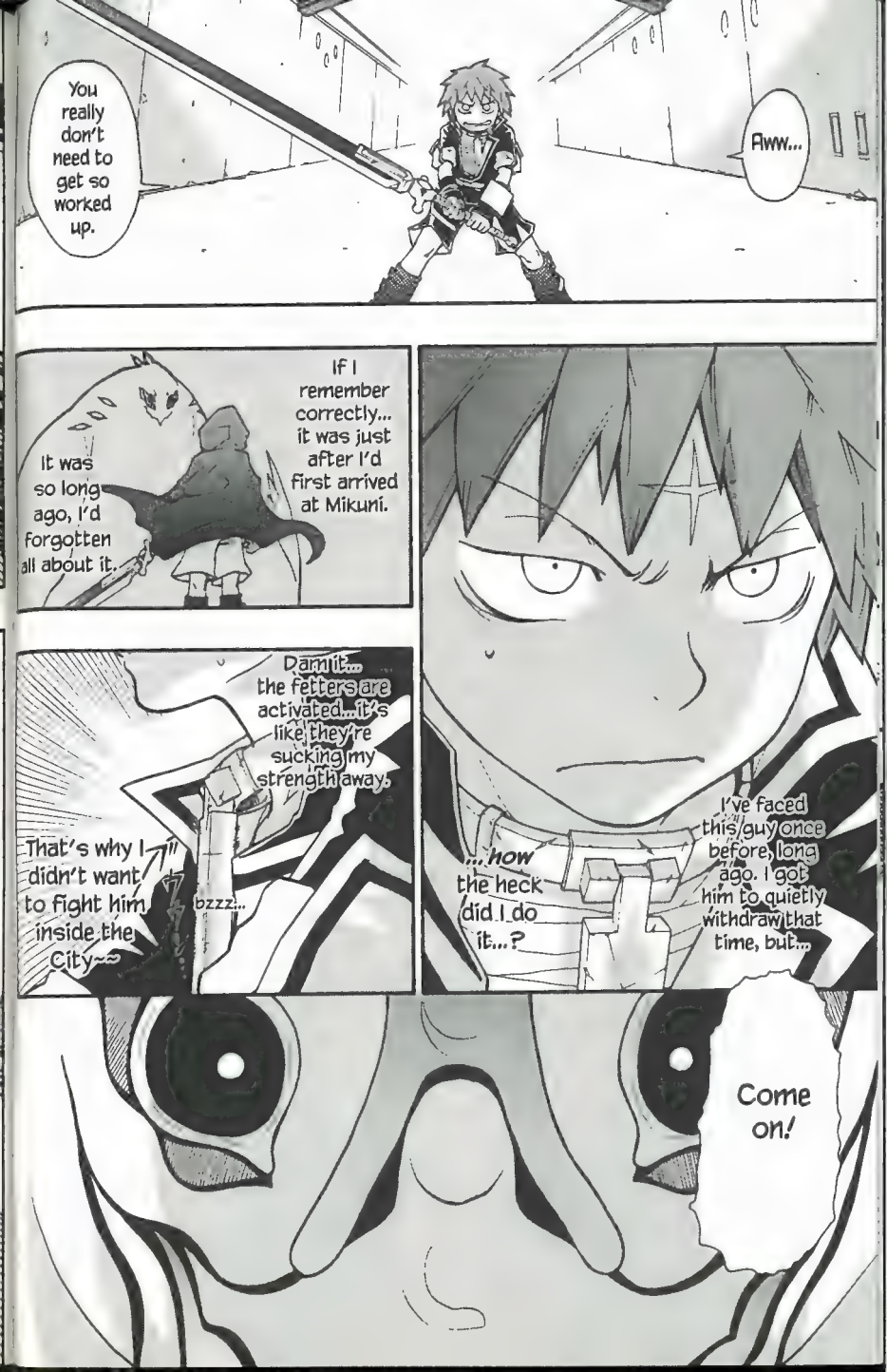


Mission Four
The Forgotten Promise



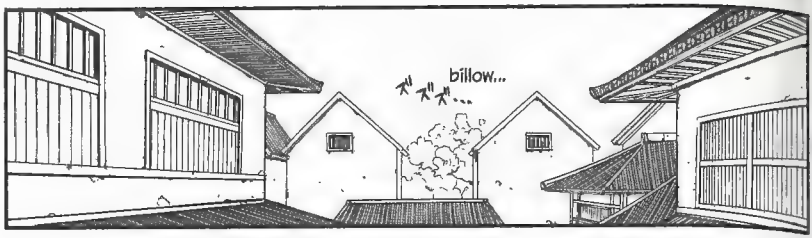

Captain, the advance party Squad Zero is presently holding off the Dracule.
We're ready to go, but...?
Not yet.
Assume a watch-and-wait until my mark.

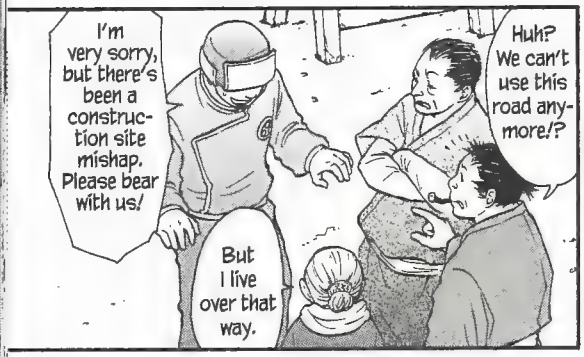

No thanks... It's not that I *can't* put out my all, per se...
If you can't put out your all... shall I pull it out of you?
rrrroar
spike
spike
spike


You really don't need to get so worked up.
Aww...
It was so long ago, I'd forgotten all about it.
If I remember correctly... it was just after I'd first arrived at Mikuni.
Damn it... the fetters are activated... it's like they're sucking my strength away.
That's why I didn't want to fight him inside the City~~
bzzz...
...HOW the heck did I do it...?
I've faced this guy once before, long ago. I got him to quietly withdraw that time, but...
Come on!


launch
Issa Special ~~~ !!
Darn it!
dash


2
boom


billow...


I'm very sorry, but there's been a construction site mishap. Please bear with us!
But I live over that way.
Huh? We can't use this road anymore!?


?
What was that, an accident?


shimmer...
Spell-casters, assume hexagonal position and *prepare for arcane battle.*


It is just a temporary evacuation. There is no need to worry.
Conceal the truth from the public. Guide them without inciting anxiety or unrest.


Slowly evacuate citizens out of District Three and set up a 200-meter-radius blockade.


Then stay in arcane battle standby...
...and await the Squad Five captain's instructions.
billow
crack
CRAAAA...
crack
burst


GLARE
Sheesh... is that all you can muster?
Boring!
Aren't there any others!!?
バサァ
flap...
Boring, boring!!


buckle
Ugh...
Hang in there! Once we get to HQ, they'll tend to your injuries.
PANT
pant
PANT
PANT
Did the reinforcements arrive in time!?
We're almost at an intersection, okay?
...I don't really know. His face was covered up... but...
Who!? Who gave you that box to smuggle in?
They'll kill me! They will come after me!!


...he had frightful... eyes.
Now that I think about it, he may not have been human...
I'm sorry for all the trouble I've caused... truly.
If you really are, then you have to assist us in the criminal investigation!!
Not human?... But Dracules can't use spells.
Who's really pulling the strings!?
I swear to protect you...
... until we reach HQ!!
YOU!?
...Oh, right, you're a VIUS.
We're almost at the intersection, okay.
O... okay.


shadow
boom


!!
...Run.
Huh?
Fight me.
I saw you earlier, too...are you a VIUS?
Hurry!


draw
stagger...
I'll go call over your companion...!!
!?
Y... your companion...
PULSE
PULSE
PULSE
PULSE
shuffle
PULSE
I...I've got to stop the Dracule...!!
What happened to Issa-kun!? ...Don't tell me!
PULSE


You contain both fear and hope simultaneously.
This is why you humans are such fun!
What kind of fight will you show me?
PULSE
PANT
PANT
PULSE
PULSE


!!
Leila, duck!!
lunge
I can't!!


ドカッ
slam
タッ
thud
……！


!
Leila!!
She took it to protect me...!!
Oh...!
スッ
slide...
Un... nh.
!?
PANT
PANT
スタン
thump


PANT
PANT
PANT
Good!
I will not budge!
leer


GRRRR...
パラ crack パラ
ギギギ heeeave
グ グ グ グ straaain
Aaaargh!!


ズズ…ン
crash
Yah!
GASP
I... I re-member now!!!
GASP
Shoot!
hurdle
boooom
!
Where'd he go!?
O


whip
Wa-
ha-
ha
!!!
stab
Leila, are you all right!?
Sôsei-san!


strain...
How-ever... for me...
Impressive.
To aim for one of my few vulner-able spots and manage to pierce my body...
This.
straaaaaain
...is still not enough!
Captain!
Not yet!
Right now he could still get away! We've got to wait for a better opening...!!


Sōsei san!
slide
shove
Leila, if he takes me down, you need to sound the Fourth Alarm.
What!? The Fourth...?
dash
grab
You stay out of this!!
The reinforcements are taking too long! You can invoke it with your VIUS ID!
But that's complete evacuation of District Three!?


flash
!
We're done here.
Roooooooooar!!


I'm the one you're supposed to be fighting!!
!?
slam
slide


flare...
Now!
crackle
crackle
crackle
voosh

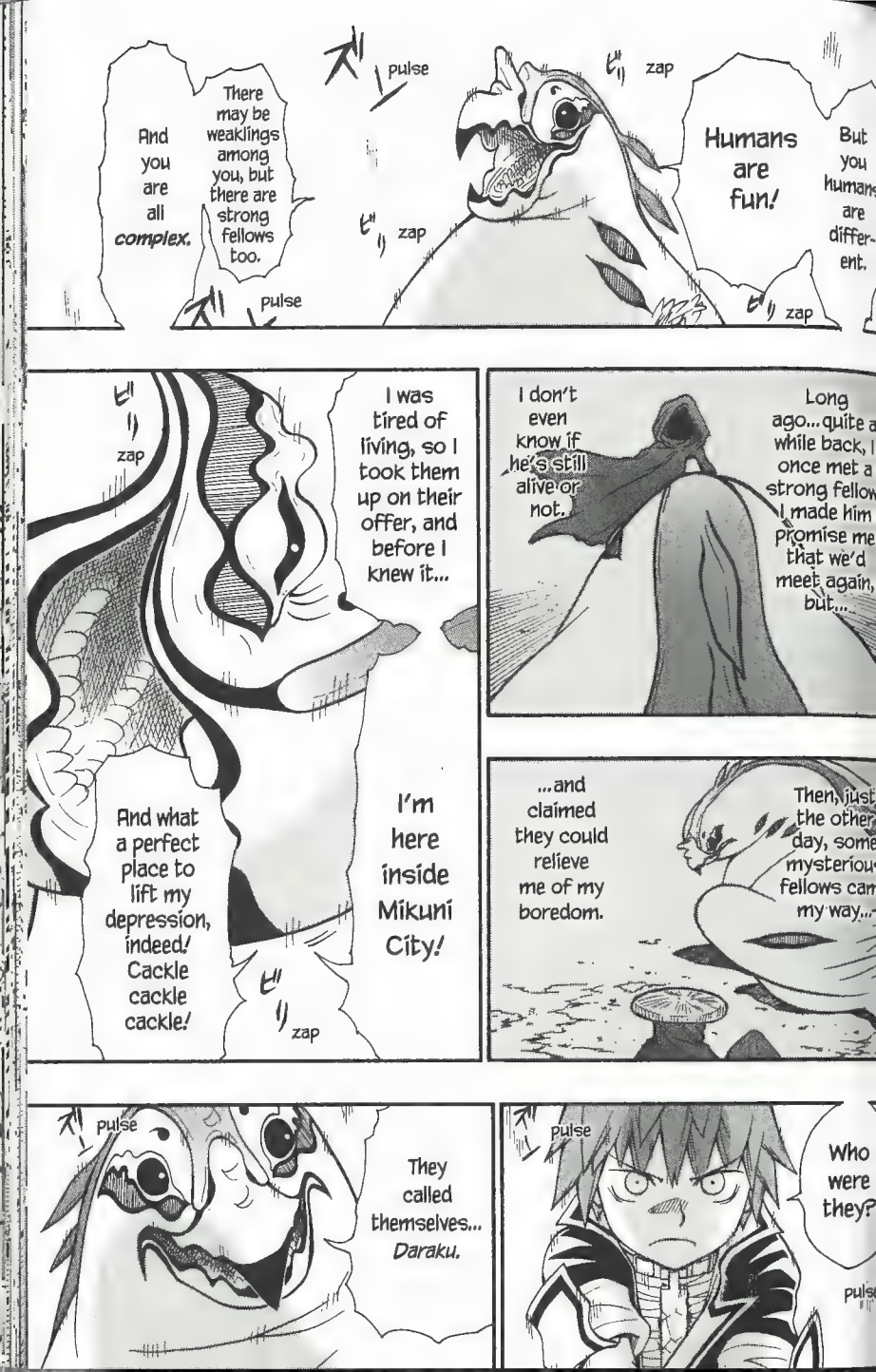

HEXAGONAL CAGE!!!
tap
!
The Hexagonal Cage spell!? Our reinforce-ments are here!!


Captain Kiura?!
Yukimura, I had heard you were on temporary reassignment to Squad Zero.
I am Troop Chihiro, Squad Five Captain Kiura.
Squad Zero folk, nice work!
crackle
crackle
crackle
Sorry it took so long. We didn't want the Dracule to catch on to our presence.
We had to make sure we snared it on the first attempt, so we were waiting for a clear shot.
What about the populace?
No worries. We've evacuated a 200-meter radius.
We're now going to shift to the focused arcane assault and annihilate the Dracule.


It can't be helped. Those inside cannot exit the Hexagonal Cage unless it is dismantled.
!
Wait...
Issa-kun... what about the Squad Zero captain!?
But...
Although he may suffer injuries.
Its arcane force may be powerful, but it specifically targets only Dracules, so Captain Kazuma should be able to withstand it.
pulse
pulse
pulse
pulse
Wait... this spell shield...
It doesn't affect Issa-kun's fetters...?


pulse
Yeah... it feels like it.
pulse
zap
zap
zap
zap
zap
Is this...a human *spell*?
zap
How were you transported here from the northern territories?
pulse
You're a pretty odd one for a Dracule.
pulse
pulse
So you knew I came from the northern territories?
zap
zap
throb
throb
It's pretty intense, eh?
The Hexagonal Cage spell... it's a spell that suppresses a Dracule's power and seals it within a shield.
How careless of me.
pulse
pulse
Humph, I got caught in a human trap, eh?


And what I learned after I became a Dracule and gained *human intellect* was that...
I've lived decades since assuming this form.
I can't even remember what I was before, whether I was a far-flying migratory bird... or a field-mouse-devouring owl...
pulse
pulse
pulse
Around me were only other Dracules, for anything else just instantly became infected from even the lightest scratch.
But their stupidity! They had neither *intelligence* nor *power*. I was the only strong one.
It was an unbearable monotony.
I was bored.


pulse
zap
Humans are fun!
But you humans are different.
zap
There may be weaklings among you, but there are strong fellows too.
And you are all *complex.*
pulse
zap
I was tired of living, so I took them up on their offer, and before I knew it...
I'm here inside Mikuni City!
And what a perfect place to lift my depression, indeed! Cackle cackle cackle!
zap
I don't even know if he's still alive or not.
Long ago... quite a while back, I once met a strong fellow. I made him promise me that we'd meet again, but...
...and claimed they could relieve me of my boredom.
Then, just the other day, some mysterious fellows came my way...
pulse
They called themselves... *Daraku.*
pulse
Who were they?


Issa-kun...
U... nh.
pulse
Excel-lent.
pulse
Captain, we have completed preparations for arcane assault. We are ready to launch on your mark.
pulse
There were still civilians around!!
Unnh...
A... a man!
The young fella's trapped in the rubble...
!
That was close! Thank heavens you didn't get caught inside the shield!!
But the young fella...
Wh... why... didn't you evacuate!?


There's someone inside the spell shield!!
A... a man!
!
And then the wall collapsed... he shielded me...
My hip had given out on me, and I was just lying in the alley, unable to move.
When that young fella came along and helped me...
That person! Why...I thought he ran for it!?
I realize that...and I can't guarantee...
B... but he's a civilian!?
...either his or the Squad Zero captain's lives.
But...!
So...he's the one who brought in the Dracule?
Th... the man is the so witnes in this case!
What!?
It's to late. W have t proce as is


The cost most likely won't be just one life.
And we'll no longer have the element of surprise, so during that interval, that Dracule could cause tremendous havoc!
pulse
pulse
There are no other options! Once a Hexagonal Cage is dismantled, it takes several hours to re-erect one.
pulse
You will comply!
We are inside Mikuni City limits! Our battle tactics are different from those of you Misora!
B... but...
Sometimes we have to accept the sacrifice of one or two lives... in order to prevent several thousand casualties.
Sôsei-san!!
Leila, it can't be helped. It's the correct decision.
.....


!
step
That's... our job.
!!
The mission always comes first.
I promised him... that I'd– we'd protect him!
How can we call ourselves samurai if we can't even keep our word!?


!!
...Captain Kazuma, long time no see.
Squad Five Captain Kiura—!!
zap
zap
zap
pulse
pulse
Oh yeah! So I've got a favor to ask of you...
I believe you have a grasp of the situation...?
!?
Could you entrust things to me just a bit longer? Hold off the arcane assault?
Three... no, even just two more minutes.
And I'll take care of this.


C'mon, Kiura, just this once!
!
Ready arcane assault!!!
Kazuma-san, need I remind you that you are under Troop Chihiro's jurisdiction here? Cease and desist all personal actions!
No, no, I'm asking you as an equal, colleague to colleague!
Issa-kun must barely be able to move, yet...!?
What... is he think-ing?
...I am no longer either a Squad Zero member or a subordinate.
Is that an order?


He appears to be... talking.
What's he hesitating for? It's so unlike the captain.
Hey, what's going on!?
What!?
And well, I've got my own deal going with this Dracule, so...
My newbie ace member's the one who swore to protect him, yeah?
I really cannot believe that that man is so critical...
Civilian lives are at stake, you know!
How do you expect me to heed such nonsensical pretexts!?
dash
!!
Please give my captain a little time! I beg you!


Issa-kun of all people can pull it off...!!
He's rescued me before, too.
That's right... he might be a bit rash and reckless, but...
...and I trust those words!!
Issa-kun... I mean, the captain said, "I'll take care of this"...
Why... do you defend him so?
...
Leil
!!
Of course!
Becaus
he's a fellow VIUS!
clench...

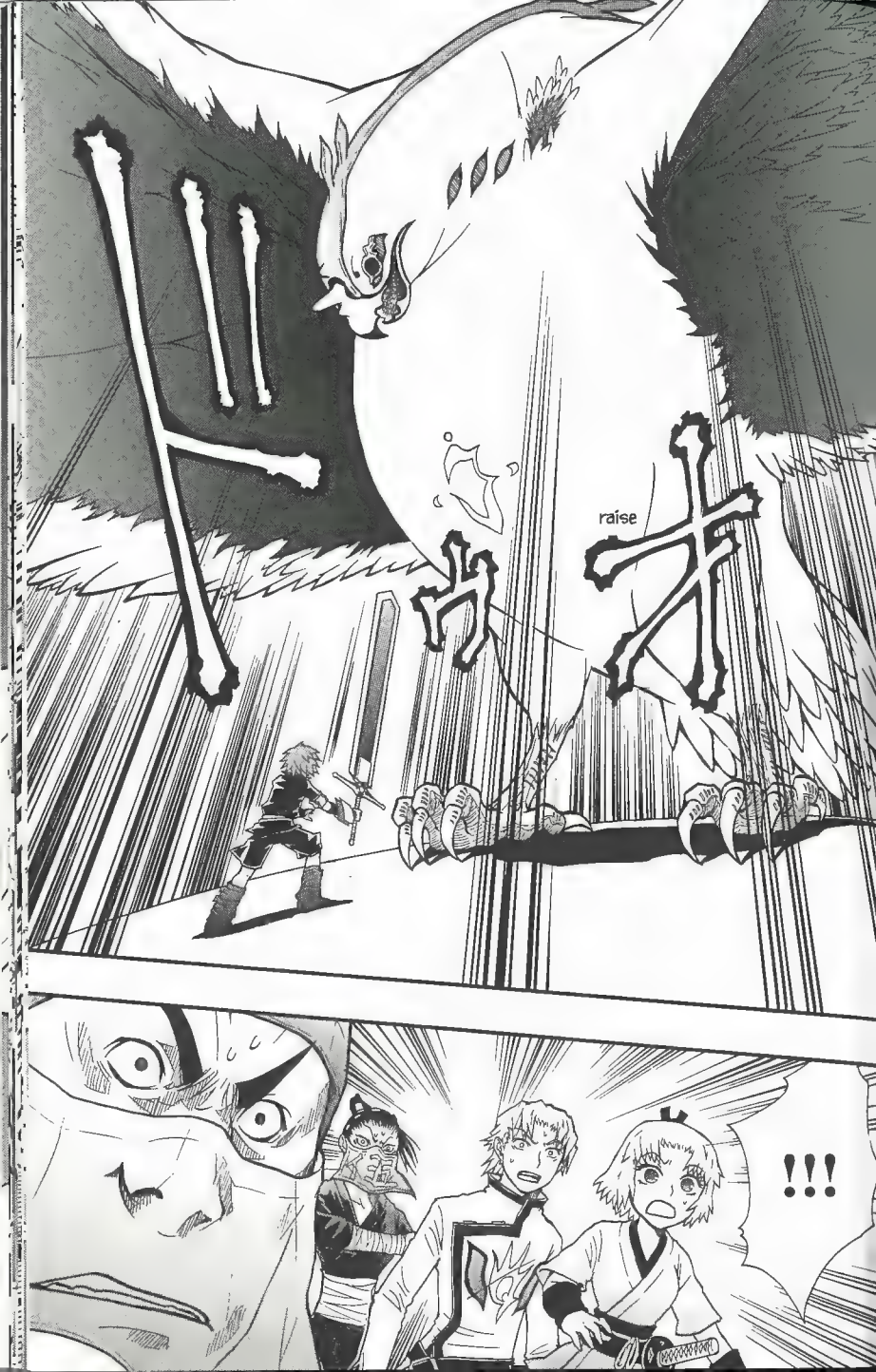

Kazuma-san, you have exactly one minute!!
!
!
Hold the arcane assault!!
Once it has passed, we will launch immediately!!
I will take full responsibility!!
Captain! How do you plan to explain such a selfish tactic to our superiors!?
I owe you one!!!
This is turning into a farce.
pulse
pulse
...Hey, human, I'm getting bored.


pulse
pulse
I never imagined you'd just keep waiting for me~~
throb
throb
I'm so sorry— it was so long ago that I had completely forgotten!
If they want to attack me, let them.
?
Kaligera of the Northern Mountains— do you remember me?
pulse
pulse
Don't put me in the same category as all those small fry!!
I'm simply looking for strong fellas!
...Don't attack humans?
zap
?
zap
All right! You've promised!
That we will meet again some-day!!
I'm in a rush.
Well then, lad! Fight me with that sword of yours!! Come at me full strength!!!
And next time, we'll fight to our hearts' content!
So let me have a rain check


Aaaaah!!!
ぐおおおお
rise
You're that lad!!!!
Sure, then!! Sure!!
Let's get out of here!! Let's fulfill each other's promises outside Mikuni!!!
And my fetters are weighing me down.
The peanut gallery is bother-some, too.
zap
pulse
zap
pulse
There are spells up all around here that are suppressing your strength...
But you see— I can't fight you all-out inside the city.
zap
pulse


Wa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha, no problem!! A little squirt like you forgot our pact!? Gya-ha- ha-ha-ha!
I can't fly, so you'll need to take me with you.
Captain, it's almost time.
pulse
I can't really hear anything.
pulse
...Wha goin on i ther
Please!
Wha... what have you and the Dracule been...!?
Just trust me on this!!
We're going to leave Mikuni, the both of us!!
Kiura- take down the spell, will ya!!
!?


Just do it! I'll take full responsibility!!
Wha...!?
CLENCH
Spell squad, release!!
Release!
cast
cast
Ugh... it's an order!
voosh


raise
!!!


soar
flap...
launch
Hey... what's that!?
A bird?


thud
thud
thud
Wa-
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha!
Hey!
There are
shields
around the
outer
perimeter!
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
No
biggie!!
blast


...went with the Dracule.
...Issa-kun...
He always assesses his opponents before acting... even if they're Dracules.
He was only able to because it was a Dracule of high intellect... it usually would not go this well.
He... negotiated with the Dracule!?
What the... I've never heard of such a tactic!
VIUS
...Yeah.
But Captain Issa did keep his word!
I had heard he was an odd one...but this is just creepy.
!


You're a newcomer, aren't you? You have a lot of faith in your captain, eh.
Huh?
I...used to be a member of Squad Zero. But we just couldn't put our trust in him.
Why is that... sir?
Because... we didn't think he was human.
He is human!
You'll eventually find out, too, but...
It's quite obvious if you talk to him! Really!
Now please excuse me!
Indeed.
.....


Thank you. You saved me...
I'll cooperate in whatever way I can.
I'm glad you're okay.
And if you're going to thank anyone, thank my captain.
...
Um...
!
And yet somehow, it's so difficult to... I wonder why...
I've made up my mind, Kazuma...
But if he had failed...
It's all good only because it just happened to work...
flap
You are dangerous after all.


No!
I mean your other power.
All right!!
Now there's nothing interferin anymore.
Show me your true strength, lad!
That mark... it's a Dragon Eye, no?
You've added quite an impressive piece that you didn't have before...
cast
Okay!
crouch
You're rather knowledge able.
I don't need or want you to hold back. Reveal it and come!
Haven't lived this long for nothing.


ザシュ
slash
ドキッ
flare
グ
gape
アッ


ドゴ
stomp


ba-dum
ba-dum
ba-dum
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
Gu-ha... gu-ha-ha-ha!! Brilliant!
So this is the might of the Dragon Eye, eh?!! You're the first to have pierced me!
You may be a Dracule...
PHLIP
...but you are also a noble warrior.
Your name... let me know your name, lad.
ba-dum
ba-dum


My name is Issa Kazuma of Mikuni!!
Issa!
I am Kaligera, the one who scattered upon your fist!!!!
Issa Kazuma! Let us meet again one day!!!
scatter
Issa... Kazuma eh... gwa-ha-ha...
Compared to the hundreds of years more I might have lived on in eternal boredom...
This brief instant was truly priceless...!!
fizzzz


voosh
Sure...
scatter
...with both of us human next time.
You were... splendid, too.
Issa Kazuma just disappeared along with the Dracule?
...And?


The penalty for stoking the unease of the populace is quite severe.
What an unprecedented incident, as usual, flying the skies above Mikuni with a Dracule...
Yes.
I thought you didn't think too highly of him...
You're... covering for Kazuma?
No, this was my decision. I was the chief officer on the scene!
Did you feel an obligation toward your former captain?
...
SLAM
Now if you'll please excuse me!
No, just respecting my fellow warrior, sir.

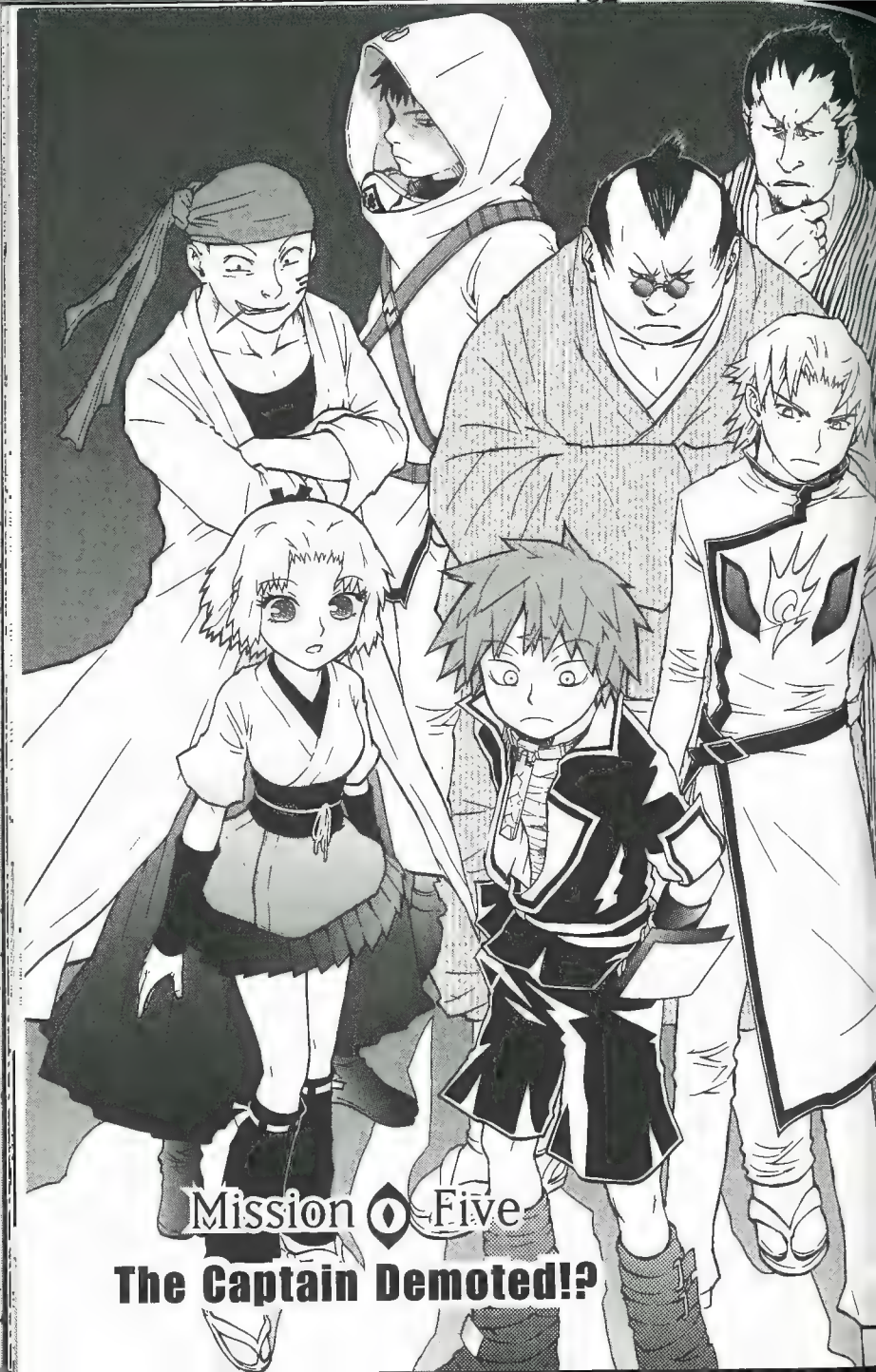

Issa Kazuma...
...he's poison to Mikuni.
Issa-kun!!
Yo—!
Er... we need to start closing the gates, miss...
Wait!
squeak


You were gone so long I thought you were dead!!
What, you've been waiting for me!?
He took me sooo far away~~yikes.
Hurry, hurry... ...Get in!
ひょい hop
Thanks a bunch, Granny.
Hey, don't be snatching my turnips!
Yes...
... sir!
Well, in any case...
Mission accomplished-eh?




What's this about?
creak...
creak...
Um–
They said they wanted us to "tolerance test" this new invention of the Engineering Corps, this new materials transport board.
Although I don't know why we were chosen for the task.
creak...
creak...
Sheesh, what a pain, especially this early in the morning.
click
click
click
Please raise the board a few more feet.
pop
pop
Shut up! This is all your fault, because of your mess-up!
Apologize to my staff, eh?
The straps.
They're kinda tight.


I've only been awake ten minutes... could you please explain this all again?
The senior officers are piping mad about you flying over Mikuni with the Dracule the other day.
And they somehow decided to include me in their spiteful retribution.
Do you understand now?
But I thought I was the hero who saved the City.
Captain Sakuraba, we're good to go. Shall we commence the first trial run?
Go forth and die.
spring
Hey-!

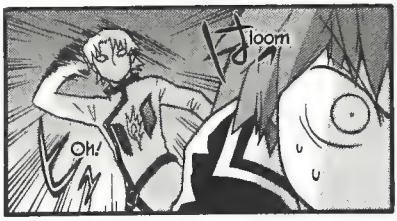


Mission Five

The Captain Demoted!?


うわー
roar
Rubbish
That Issa—!!
Rubbish
Trash
Throw out!!
Do not kick
caution
I guess he means to avoid this room until after I've already cleaned it up!!
clunk
clunk
He promised!!
And I do *not* want to be stuck with just Issa-kun!
At this rate, even Sôsei-san will run back to Squad Five!


creep
I'm not feeling too steady right now anyway...
She's probably furious. I don't wanna go in—.


Oh!


stagger...
I was only able to down three bowls of ramen.
I can't believe he dropped me 16 times...

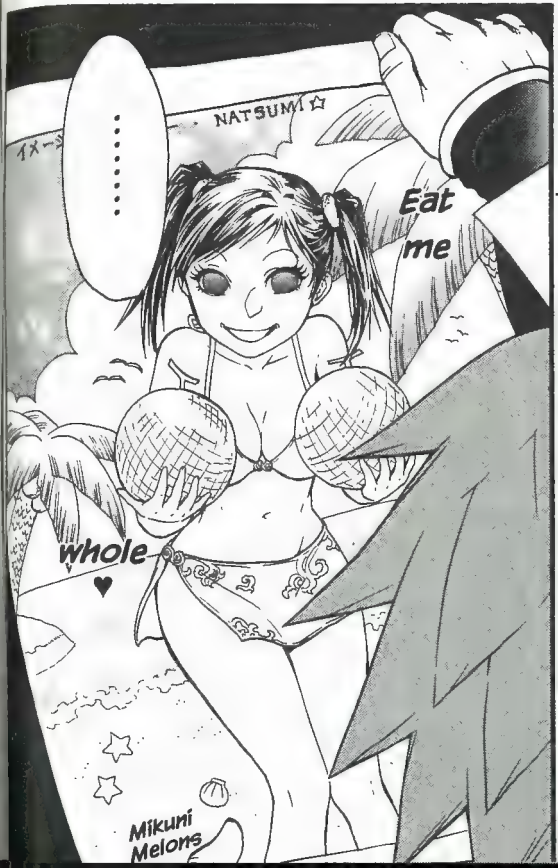

A memo from "above." Please review its contents.
snap
Hah—


Sôsei-san, good morning.
Oh!


slide


Oh, morning, Mikami-san.
So I got up early, but~~
cough cough


Morning. You're here early, Leila.
Yes, well, I had some chores to do...

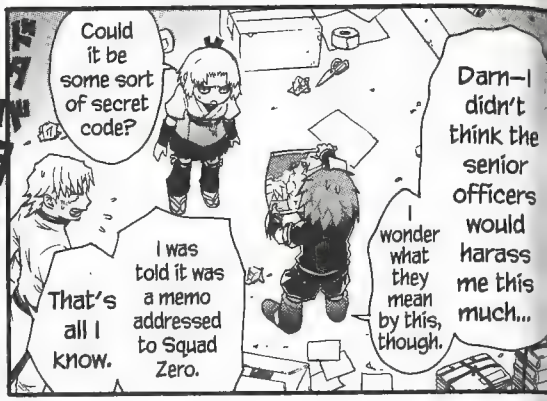

NATSUMI☆
.....
Eat me
whole
Mikuni Melons

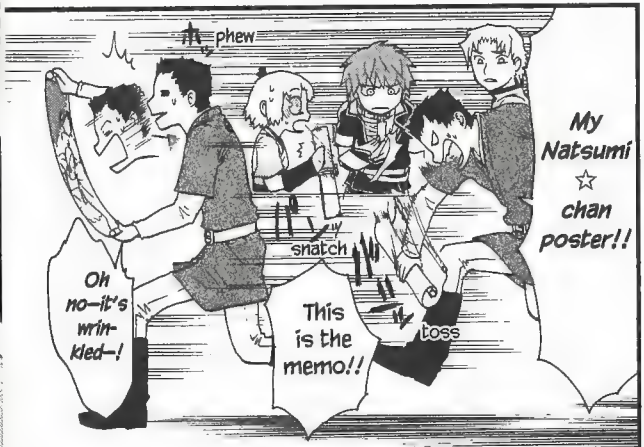

Please don't fake being sick!
That's not fair!
I bet you were stealing food from the cafeteria under the guise of having overslept.


I really am feeling weak today, so go easy on me, will ya—
And what's this, anyway?


I was just told to deliver it!!
No!
Is this a personal possession of yours?


stomp stomp stomp
Squad Zero folk—!
SLIDE


Could it be some sort of secret code?
That's all I know.
I was told it was a memo addressed to Squad Zero.
I wonder what they mean by this, though.
Darn—I didn't think the senior officers would harass me this much...


phew
snatch
toss
Oh no—it's wrinkled—!
This is the memo!!
My Natsumi ☆ chan poster!!


There it is—!!
Hyûga-san?

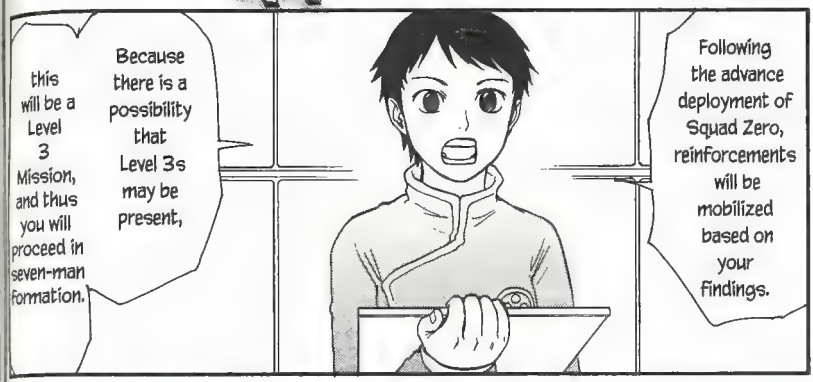

upset
I groveled to the fruit grocer to get this poster.
Hey! Even if it was you, Kazuma-san, I still can't forgive it!
Toss it!
glare
Oh, fingerprints, too!
Natsumi ☆ !!
Tsunami?
It's terrible! Please take a look at the memo, Kazuma-san!!
roll, roll
Er...but I really did come on official business.
I've already heard this once~~
"Captain Issa Kazuma's actions, having caused disorder not only among the populace but within VIUS HQ as well... thus undermining the trust and confidence established by the VIUS, are deemed deplorable..."
They're pretty mad, huh.
unroll
Indeed... it's a lot worse than the poster.


!!
If this goes badly, Squad Zero may even be disbanded.
...But that's the umbrella organization that governs all VIUS cities!!
Central HQ!!?
"...and regrettably warrant a statement to the Central VIUS Headquarters."
ugh
This is no laughing matter--!
Yeah, but since there are only three of us to begin with, it's no big deal.
A-ha-ha-ha.
thunk
tumble tumble tumble
!?
Kazuma-san, this is no time to be weak!!
I told you... please be just a little nicer than usual to me today.
stream
stream
Hey, what's the matter!?


...it's even possible that they may reprimand and demote just you, Captain...!!
And based on his or her report, Squad Zero may be disbanded... or...
The higher-ups are planning to put a watchman on Squad Zero, starting with your next mission.
What's this "Enforcement of Special Contract Article 17"?
?
How can you be so nonchalant about this?
They really want to get rid of me, huh~~
"...If so determined, 'revealing the eye' *may be prohibited* for an indeterminate period."
So it's come to this, eh?
"Issa Kazuma 'Special Contract' Article 17..."


!
!
!
In any case, Kazuma-san, please refrain from any questionable actions!!
If you hang in there awhile, I'm sure they'll restore you to full capacity.
Squad Zero, emergency deployment!! Please rendezvous in Center Hall B5!!
I really hope everything's going to be okay.
Disbanding of Squad Zero... demotion from captain rank...
Yeah, no worries.


Center Hall B5
We have received a report detailing the sighting of large-sized Dracules on the outskirts of Mikuni.
According to estimates, they are Level 4 beast-form rank, but we have not yet been able to confirm their exact number.


Following the advance deployment of Squad Zero, reinforcements will be mobilized based on your findings.
Because there is a possibility that Level 3s may be present,
this will be a Level 3 Mission, and thus you will proceed in seven-man formation.

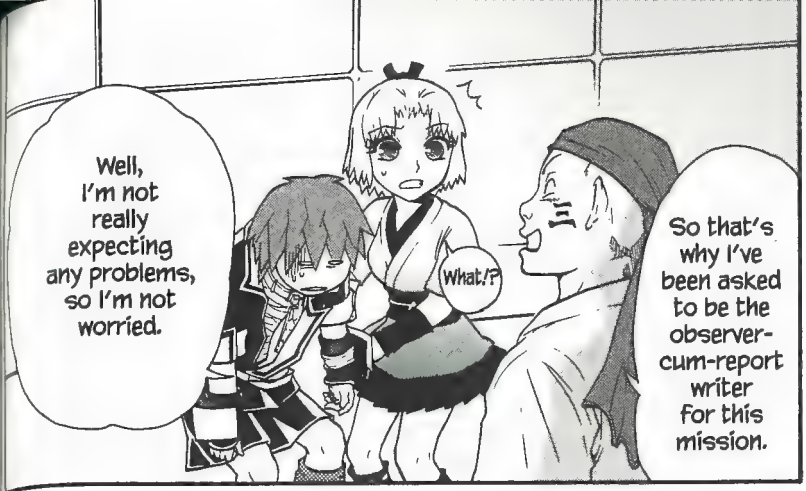

Kajiyama from Squad Two...
Sazanami from Squad Three...
Nanbu from Squad Seven...

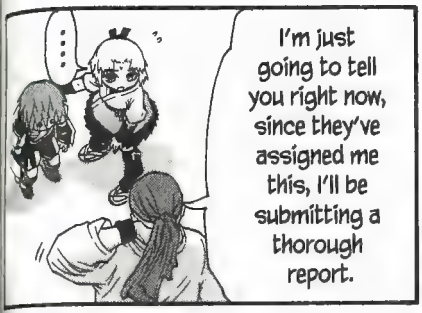

Two members from Squad Zero: Mikami and Yukimura...
bow


...acting as sub-commander Hibiki from Squad Six...
Nice to meet you.
And your commander will be Squad Zero Captain Issa Kazuma.
Wow, such a young-lookin' sub-commander. So he's got higher rank than me?
Oh, he's the one from last time.
!!!
Yo— ulp.

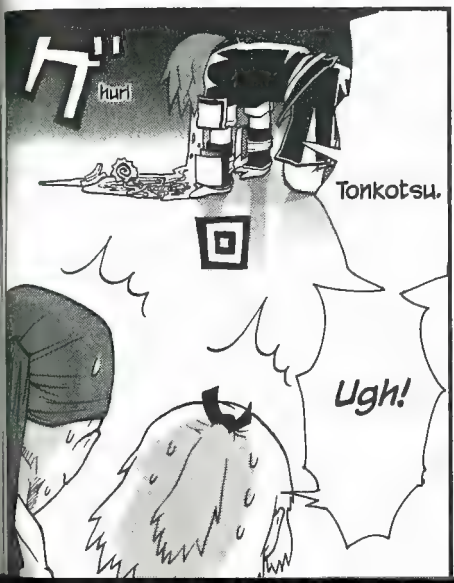

Is this guy really all right?
...Th... That's all. Prepare to board transport vehicle!
Uh...argh~~ my stomach.
Hey, Issa-kun!! Will you pull yourself together!?
It's me!! Kajiyama!
Don't you remember me~~!?
K... Kanikama?
Hey, hey, hey!! If it isn't Kazuma-kun~~!
?

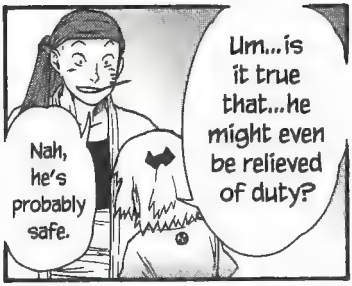

tumble
tumble
tumble
slam
tumble
Huh?
GUFF
smack
Kajiyama!! You're still real funny, ya know!!
No, you see, me and Kazuma-kun, we were teamed up on a mission two years ago...
His wife?
Who are you?
Um... I'm sorry, h seems t be a bi under th weathe today...
Hey, ya know, I've heard some things, like how you guys of Squad Zero are a bit shady.
So we're kinda like soul mates, ya know!!?
I see.
We got left behind, snowed in, and hovered between life and death together!!


Well, I'm not really expecting any problems, so I'm not worried.
What!?
So that's why I've been asked to be the observer-cum-report writer for this mission.


...
I'm just going to tell you right now, since they've assigned me this, I'll be submitting a thorough report.

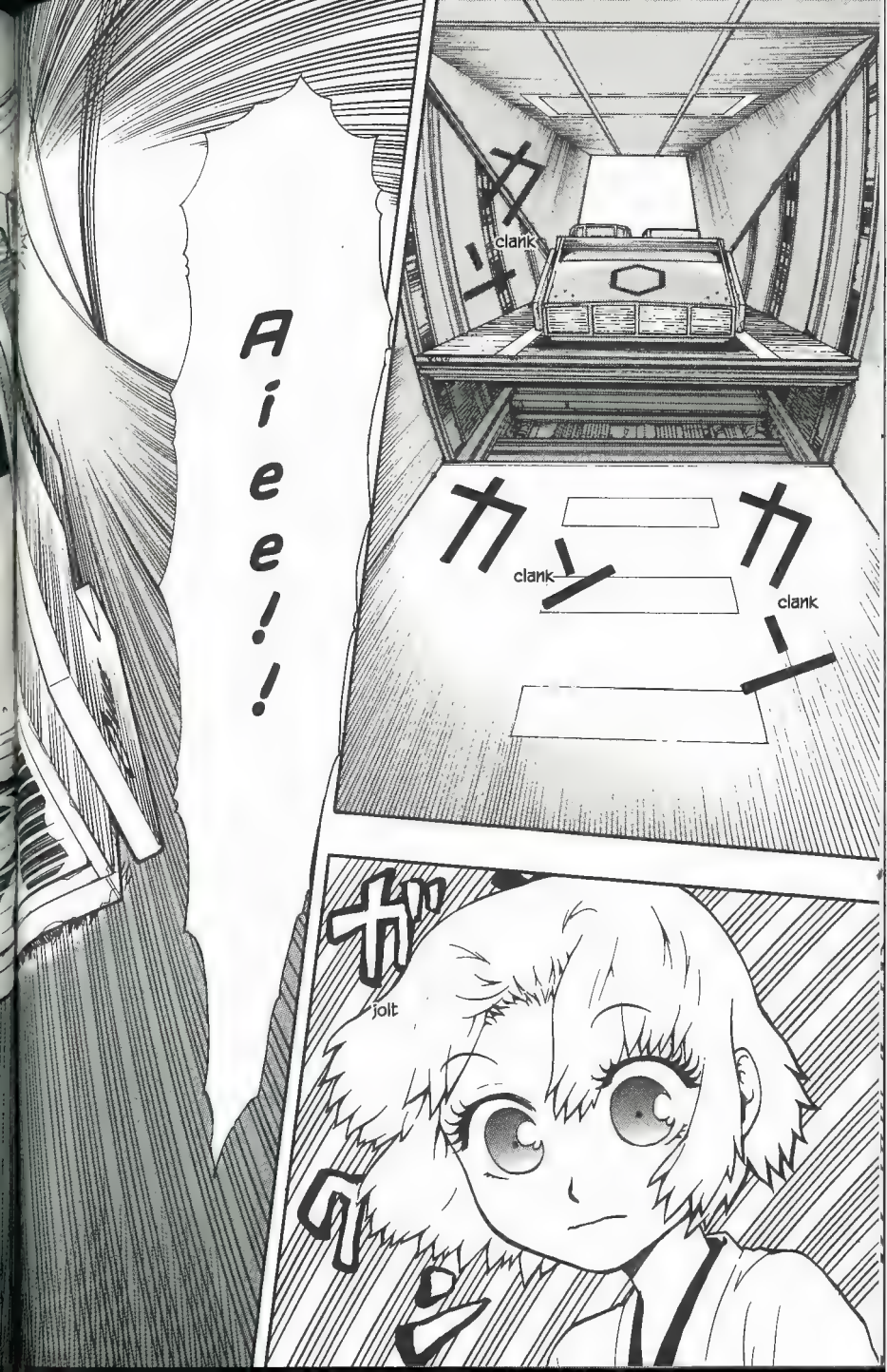

You must've really ticked off the higher-ups.
But you know...the mission report's normally the captain's job.

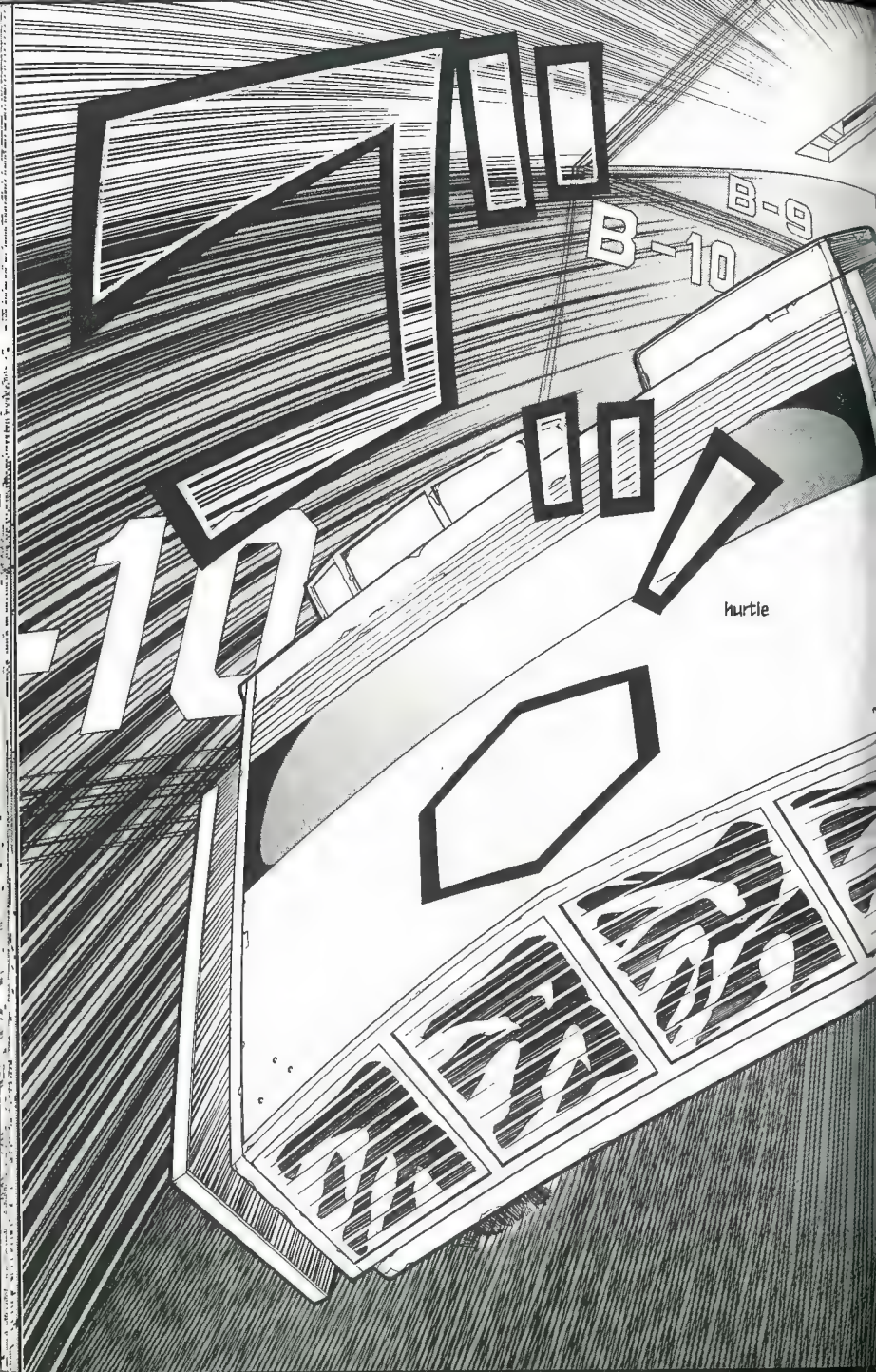

Kuri
Tonkotsu.
Ugh!


Nah, he's probably safe.
Um...is it true that...he might even be relieved of duty?

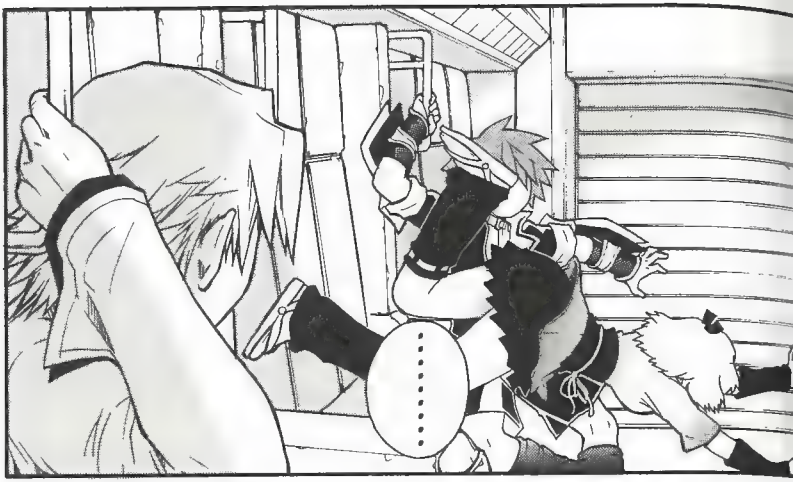

...
Ulp
...
Kazuma-kun's just the real direct, no-nonsense type! Eh!


clang
clang
Opening...
tube gate!
We're going to exit the city from under-ground?
It's because you eat such greasy things so early in the day.
I feel a bit better now.
Are you really gonna be okay?
It's the Undertube. Huh, I haven't traveled through here since my very first mission.
"Under-tube"?
CLANG
You probably ought to grab onto something about now—
Why?
That's how we're able to travel so quickly in emergency situations.
It's an underground access tunnel system. They spread out in a weblike pattern all the way out in a three-kilometer radius beyond the city limits.


カツ
clank
カン
clank
カン
clank
Aiee!!
ガ
jolt


B-9
B-10
-10
hurtle


clang
clang
clang
Top Secret
And the tunnel map is top secret, only known to a select few.
The Undertube has many draw-gates to prevent Dracule infiltration.
There are still a lot of things about VIUS that even I don't know...




Y-you're pretty fierce today, eh, Mikami-san.
Heh.
Ha ha ha.


...Are you all right?
Y... yes.
flail
flail


SHORT
SNICKER
SNICKER
huff


S... stop it! I'm gonna hurl again!
You pervert!
More tonkotsu.
swish


Outside of crunch situations, he's so lackadaisical.
I mustn't get caught up in Issa-kun's "pace."
groan—
Is he gonna be okay?
Shh, he can hear you.
Sorry to summon you so early.
It's regarding the disturbance in Mikuni the other day.
You requested my presence?
We're debating how to even report them to Central HQ.
Squad Zero's actions are a real headache for us senior officers.


I had quite a few of the people involved in that incident submit reports, but...
And how may I be of assistance?
I can only conclude that each and every one of them is covering for Issa Kazuma.
All of the reports are vague.
For some reason, you have requested temporary reassignment from Squad Five to Squad Zero.
Y... yes, sir.
Me?
This is where you come in: I would like you to report to me what happened that day.


Yukimura... regarding the other day's mission...
In your opinion...
...is there anything additional that you would like to tell me?
No, nothing.
twitch
I see. All right.
A memo has been issued for Squad Zero. Take it and go.


It seems his personality easily incurs bitter feelings.
It seems I'm not his only enemy.
Yes sir
Please excuse me.
...
But you've got to be kidding me. I have no intention of letting anyone into my private dispute with Kazuma.
I don't know how they got wind of me, but... it seems someone thinks I can be made into a "let's ax Kazuma" pawn...
Are you okay?
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
!
I'm taking care of my own business all by myself.

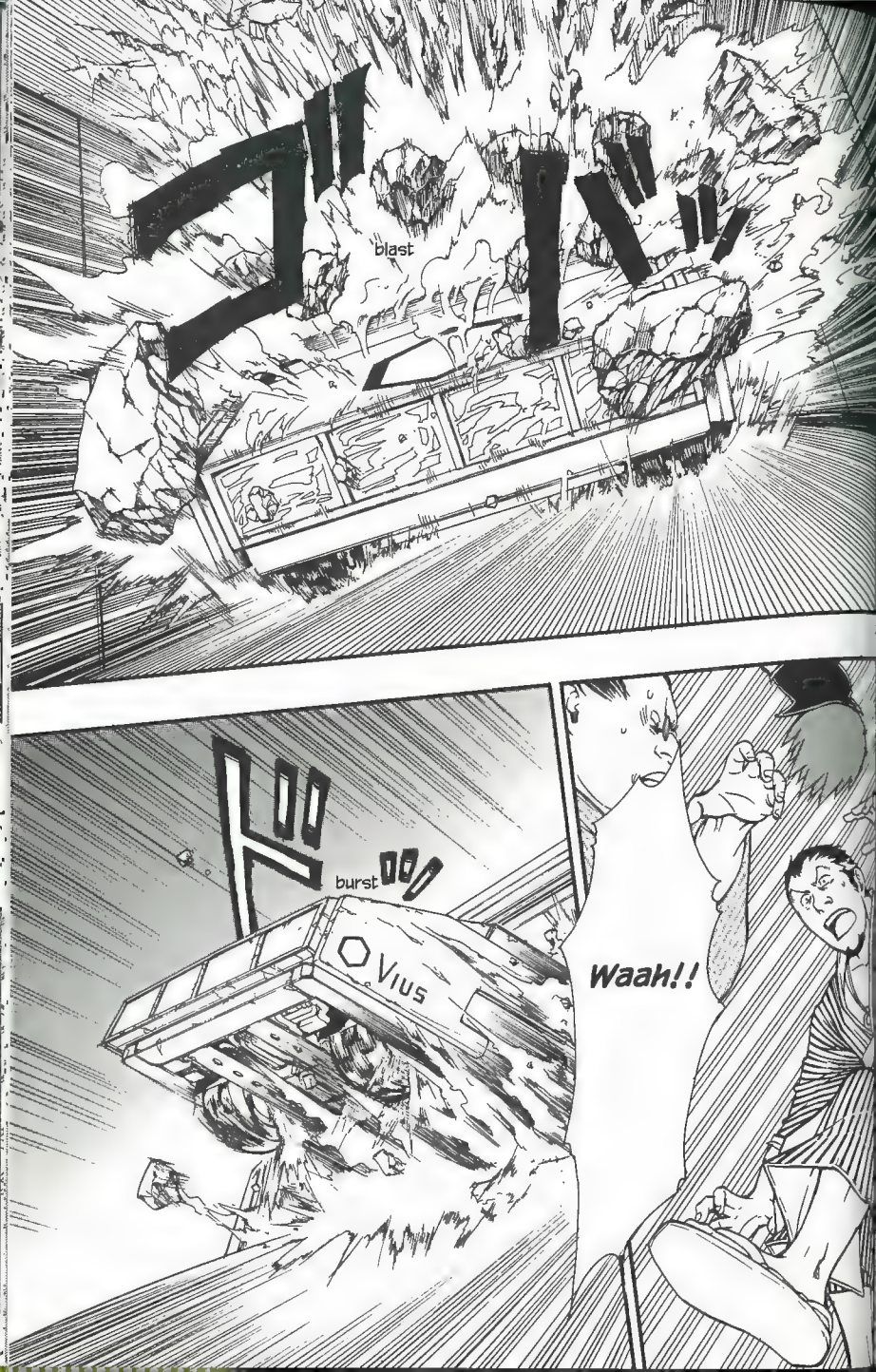

Having a girl take care of him, what a disgrace!
How envious— cackle cackle cackle.
So this is the infamous Squad Zero, eh...
They're even worse than I thought.
Humph.
The least of a captain's duties is to maintain order within his squad.
This is... harsh.
Issa-kun! Pull yourself together!
You're being derided!!
Sorry, luv.
If this is all it takes, even I can be a captain.
Hey, atch...
What are you plotting, Kazuma?
Don't tell me...he's planning to self-destruct before we can settle our score?


Hmm?
We'll be arriving at our destination shortly.
That's quite enough
Sit down.
Any way you look at it, we've got to be higher-ranked.
You know, I don't quite get why this fellow's the subcommander either.
Hey, you have some inside connections or something?


jerk
He settled them down with a single line.
Who is he?
Never mind, it's not worth it.
What is up with him?... This guy weirds me out.
...Feh.
!?
shudder
shudder
shudder
I swear he looks younger than me, but...
Hibiki... Hibiki...
We are arriving at our destination.
Prepare to deploy.


We do not know the cause. Please brace yourselves.
What's going on? It's shaking back here.
jolt
!!!
Wha...!
What the...it can't be an earth-quake....


The ceiling of the Under-tube... it's...
crack
crack
crack
crack
crack
crack
caving in!!
Hold on, everyone!! We're plowing through!!


blast
burst
Vius
Waah!!


thud
screeech
Is everyone all right!?
...!!
...Yeah, somewhat.


But if the tunnel's blocked, we can't even really call for reinforcements, so what about the mission?
There have never been any large-scale earthquakes observed in or around Mikuni before. We will need to investigate the cause...
This is awful. We were almost buried alive.
Kazuma-san, your call?
Unh~~
After getting ou three bowl of ramen, I feel muc better~~!
Issa-kun! Issa-kun!!
Oh... Oh!


So we'll proceed with the mission as scheduled.
In any case, we gotta at least take a look to see what we're dealing with.
My bad, my bad. So...uh.
We've been over this already! It's Kajiyama!!
Hey, if it isn't Kanikama!!! Long time no see!
Huh? Huh~?
If anything happens, just rendez-vous here, please.
Well then, we'll be maintaining communication with HQ.
Issa-kun!
Let's just get going! I'll explain on the way.
What was the mission, again?


So this is where large-sized Dracules were seen, huh...
There is a small farming village about two kilometers from here, and several villagers who happened to be passing by claim to have glimpsed large creatures...
The report came from area residents.
Look
pret
quie
to m
Hey, Mr. Captain.
Yeah?
Well then, I guess we'll just have to go in.
There's little doubt that they were beast-form Dracules, but we do not have any details or particulars.


Thanks to circumstances, we can't call for reinforcements.
Are you sure we should just be rushing in like this?
Hmm?
If you're scared, you can just wait here.
Who said that!?
I'm asking about if we end up in a crisis situation!!
If anything happens, it's your responsibility!
We should be all right, with the crew we've got.
This crew is a scratch team!
Well, I know a few of them, so...
Who's he talking about?
Let's go.
Oh!
leap
Feh!
Chill, chill. If anything does really happen, he's the fall guy.

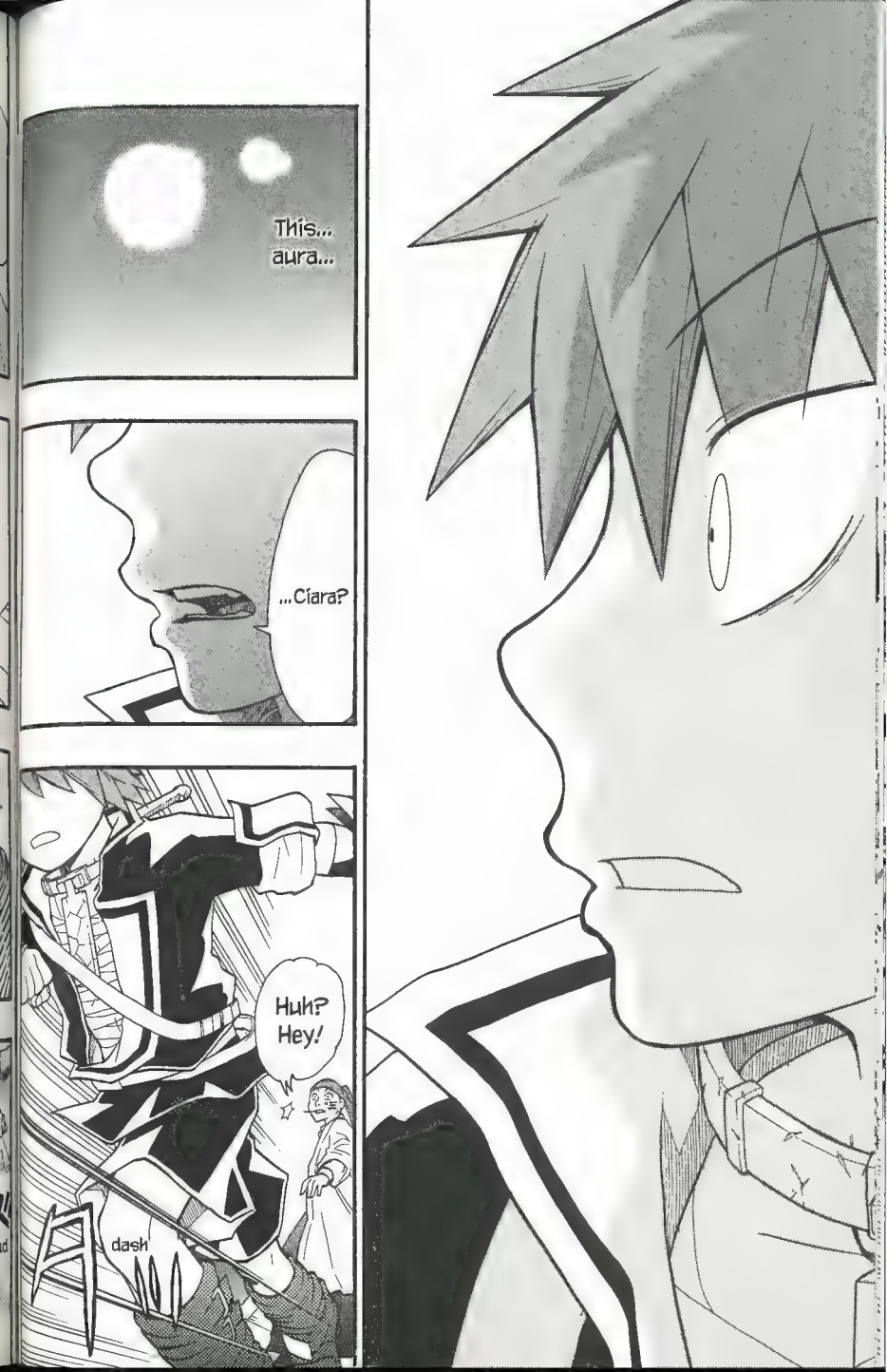

ヒョコッ
POP
scuttle
scuttle
scuttle
Nah, I'll go.
Sha I go in?
CREAK
Yah!
leap
clamp
On first glance, there don't seem to be any problems here.
I don't even sense anyone.


There have been cases where large bears were mistaken for Dracules.
We'll just walk through once, and if we don't see anything...
...we'll go home and I can re-eat those bowls of ramen.
Yup.
Come on in.
We're going in.
There ain't nothing here.
And the virus count is low as well.
tap
F-2
C'mon, this is part of our job too, you know...
Let's just get this over with.
It seems like it was a false alarm.
We're going to check every single warehouse anyway.


Issa-kun?
jolt


swaaaarm
One's stronger than Level 5...
heading this way like a tsunami...
Not too far away... an enormous number...
Hurry up and go home.
How many...!?
40... 50... no, more.
Retreat!!
We need to evacuate this area immediately!!!
It's way more than we can handle!!


Until reinforcements arrive, all of you will maintain ready state at highest alert!!!
We need to return to the rendezvous point and wait for contact with HQ!!
Issa-kun...?
We haven't even found anything yet.
And the virus count's... close to zero.
Your captain has given you orders!! Everyone retreat!!
Y... Yes, sir!
What!
...!
before they show up...
Hurry up...
What's going on with him?
Quick!


This... aura...
...Ciara?
Huh? Hey!
dash


dash
!
Him! Acting on his own again!
Hey, Kazuma-kun!
Huh? I thought we were retreating?
Issa-kun!! Sôsei-san!!
Wait, Kazuma! Where do you think you're going!?
crumble
The ceiling's coming down!!
Gah!
tremble
What the...?! An aftershock of that last earthquake!?
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud


crash
crash
crash
crash
leap
This way!
kaboooom
What the heck! Since when has this area been a quake center!!?
The ceiling's completely caved in.
We can't go back that way.
Ow

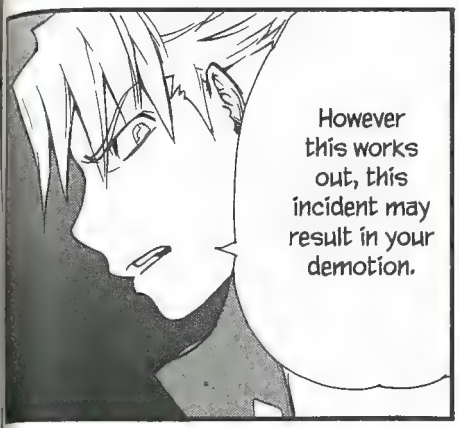

Where are we...?
First he calls for a sudden retreat, then he darts off on his own!
What the heck is up with that captain!
This seems to be a natural underground corridor. It's faintly lit... I wonder if it's from phosphorescent moss?
Curious.
!!
Speaking of the captain... where are Issa-kun and Sôsei-san?


We were almost buried alive.
What's going on?
clunk...
Unh...
Where are we...?
THUNK...
Oww.
clatter
!!
Yukimura... where's everyone else...?
Kazuma!! What do you think you're doing!!

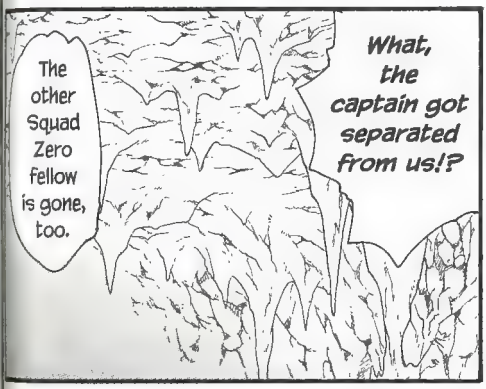

At this rate...
we're not going to be able to get back to the other side.
Shoot!! Are they on the other side of this rubble!?
Kazuma!! Because you, the captain, went off on your own...
you've now put the entire squad in danger!!
...
Sorry.
What were you thinking!? Do you realize what you've done!!!?
scratch
scratch


We've got to find another way out ASAP.
We need to join back up with the others and make sure they're okay...


...Feh!


However this works out, this incident may result in your demotion.


This is way beyond the mission now...
And Kazuma...


What, the captain got separated from us!?
The other Squad Zero fellow is gone, too.




What is up with that captain!?
Even if we were to retreat, this was our exit, you know.
What are we going to do about the mission!? Are we retreating!? Eh?
...
What are we going to do... Issa-kun?
No way...!
This is really bad, Kazuma-kun!
Squad disbandment might be the least of his problems now...
Listen up, all of you!
sneer


Refrain from whis-pering among your-selves and focus on my orders!!!
Due to Captain Kazuma becoming separated from us, as mission sub-commander, I will now take over as commander!!
Thus, we will proceed with the mission!!
... and that we are merely maintaining separate movements until we reunite.
We shall assume that the captain and that one squad member are safe...


Proceed with the mission-!?
How can you even think about the mission under these circumstances!?
That's precisely why. Without an exit route, we cannot retreat either.
...What!?
And do not question me!
Hey, you! There's something about you that just rubs me wrong!
I'm not going to let you order me around, you squirt!
In fact, I think I can do a better job than you!
Yikes, as soon as the captain vanished, we get this?
Hey!
slam


...Ugh.
.....

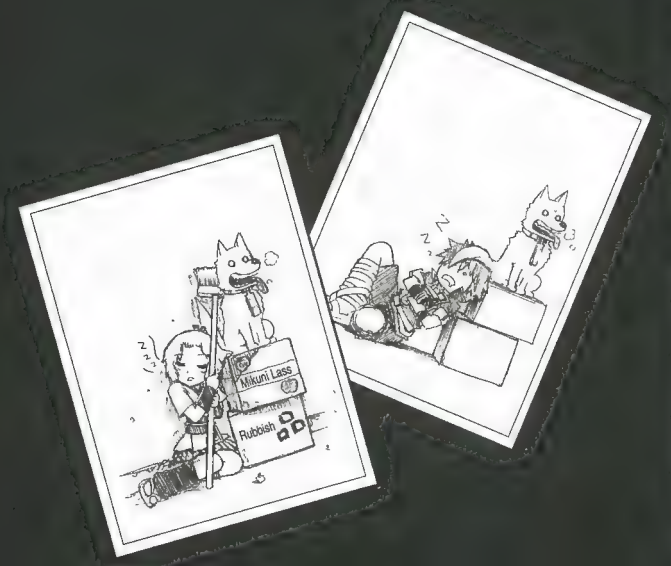

I'm only going to say this once. A superior's orders are absolute.
Those who cannot follow them will be immediately deemed guilty of mutiny.
Or would you rather quit the VIUS?


release
Nah....
I'll stay on.
That's it! I remember now.
Hibiki, Hibiki...
He... defused it in an instant.
He's Masamune Hibiki of Squad Six!!
He was inducted into VIUS when he was only 11 years old or some such...
...and he was immediately placed in that crack unit Sakuraba Squad One. He's an amazing fellow.

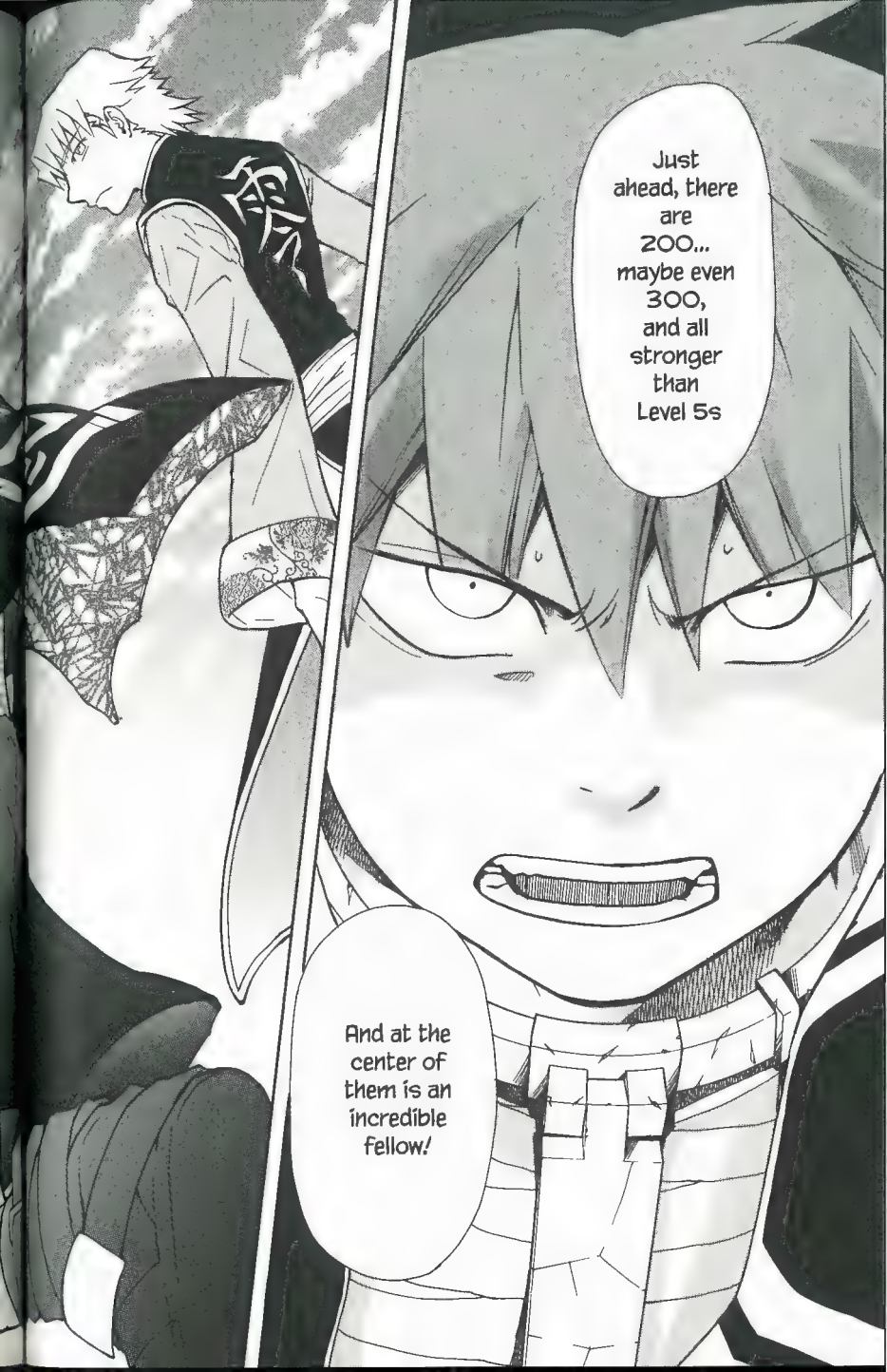

He may look and be young, but he's had way more battle experience than any of us.
Later, he transferred to Squad Six and laid low for a while, so I lost track of him, but...
...sub-commander, huh? Now I get it.
...does that mean Issa-kun would be relieved of duty?
If he's promoted to captain...
I've got a bad feeling about this...
What?
Huh, him, eh...
...depending on how today goes, he may even receive promotion to captain.


A one-way passage... I wonder where it leads?
This is *not* good, Issa-kun!!
?
...What the heck... is he actually remorseful for once?
I feel a slight breeze, so I don't think it'll be a dead end, but...
Yukimura...
...be careful.
Hey, will you...


...they're there...an enormous number of them...
Just ahead
200... 300... maybe even more, and all stronger than Level 5s
And at the center of them is an incredible fellow.


Mikuni Lass
Rubbish


depending on how this all *turns out*...
Masamune Hibiki,
.....
he may even be offered a promotio to captain.
Yukimura... be careful...


Just ahead, there are 200... maybe even 300, and all stronger than Level 5s
And at the center of them is an incredible fellow!



Mission Six

The Battle on the Lines

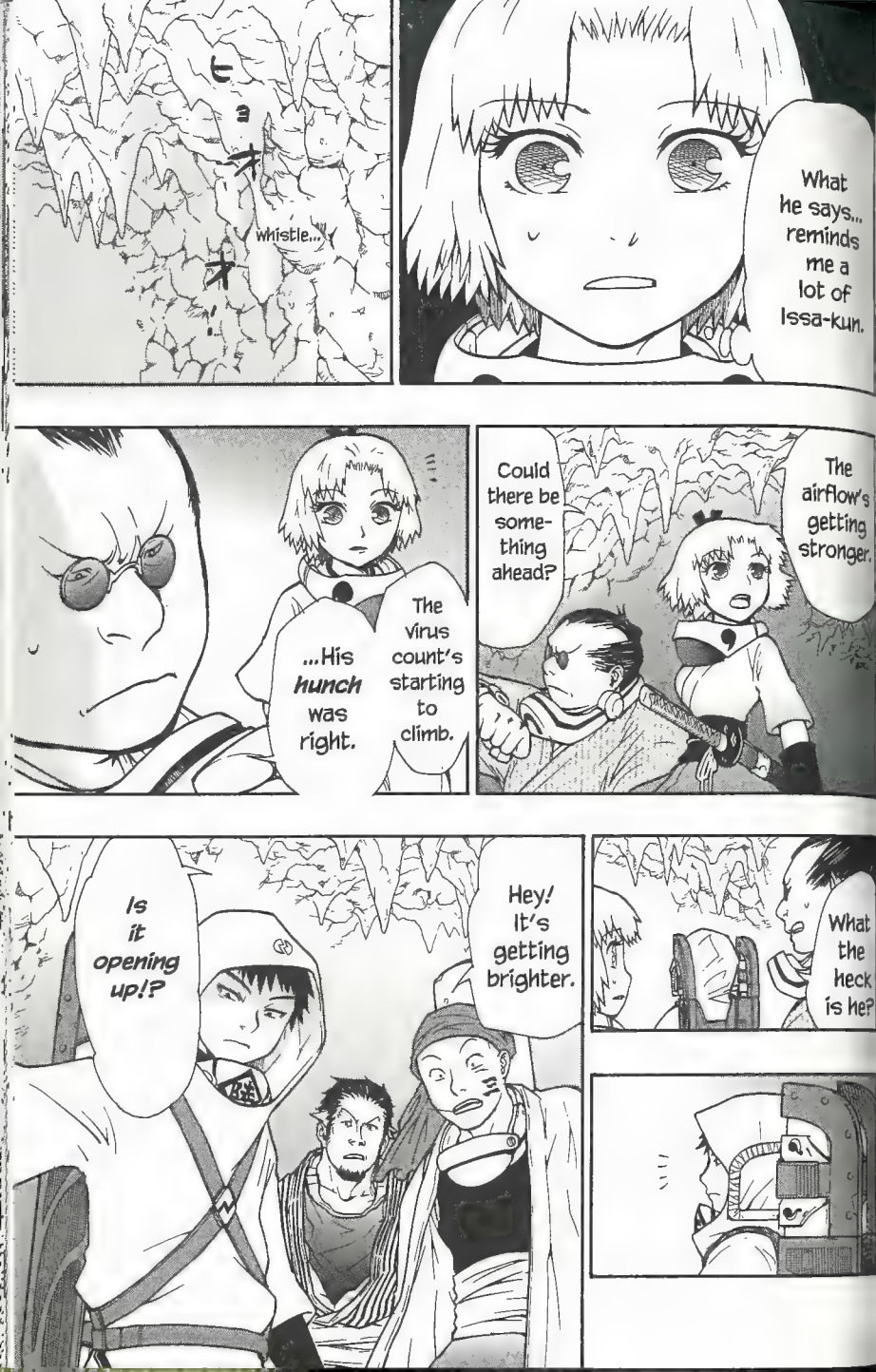

A one-way passage, huh?
I guess we have no choice but to take it.
.....
Could he be... relieved of duty...?
The squad has been split up... At this rate, Issa-kun's leadership will be questioned...
Hey, the tunnel forks. Which way?
doom
The virus count is higher on the left.
So if the mission is our priority, we should go where the virus count is higher, right?


Yes, but we're going to take the right-hand branch.
Investi-gating Dracule presence is our priority, eh...is that oka with you Com-mander
This air flow... the sensor may be reacting more strongly to the left-hand branch right now, but...
Virus density can change with shifting air currents.
I thought we were gonna look for Dracules?
Huh
For sure, there is air move-ment.
waft...
I suspect as we proceed deeper, the density will rise on the right.


Hey, hey... not that I'm questioning you or anything, but should we really be operating on *whims* in this situation?
It is, but what of it?
Don't tell me this is some *hunch* of yours or something?
"Unforeseen"?
We're still within anticipated parameters, you know.
And to even question our equipment...
Shouldn't we be going by the book, especially under these unforeseen circumstances?
You would know that too if you'd completed ***several hundred*** missions.
This amount of "stray" does not count as "unforeseen circumstances."
"Within parameters"...? But I think it's pretty obvious that we've strayed from the original plan.

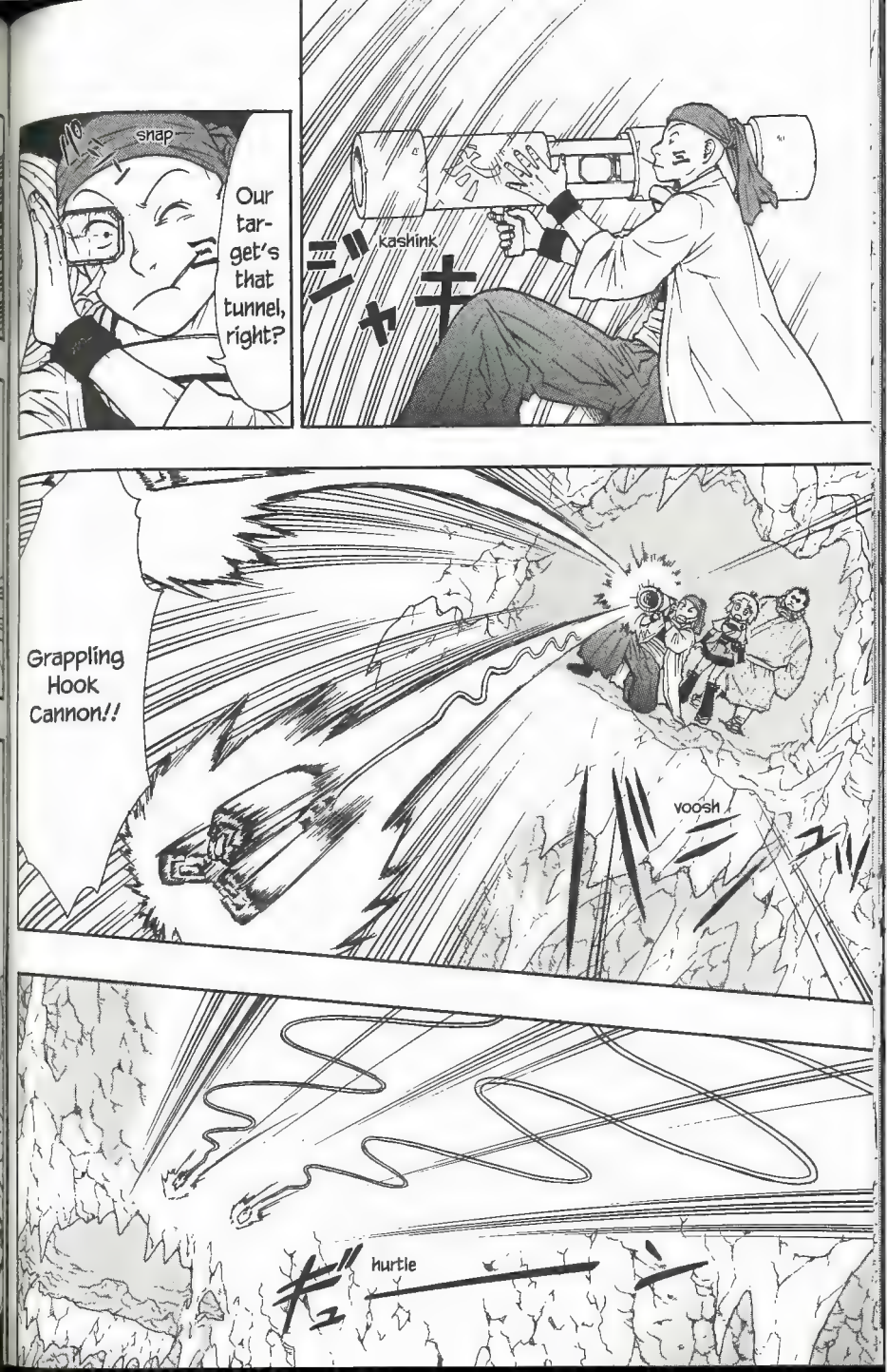

I figure those above us who are in leadership positions ought to be more cautious, eh?
But you know, even that captain seems to always be acting on *hunches*. It drives me nuts.
Sev hu dre
That's what makes him a superior leader.
No.
Hey! Are you saying I'm no better than a rookie!?
What I'm saying...
Manuals are for newbies who haven't gained or honed those *instincts* yet.
To have *good instincts*... that's an absolute requirement for distinguished warriors.
Huh!?


If you keep relying on the manual, you won't survive very long at this job.
...is that our enemies are monsters.
dooom
Ugh!
Cocky~~
And if you haven't gained *instincts* by your third year...
I'd recommend you quit.
Yet surprisingly persuasive.
I look forward to seeing his fighting ability.
Heh heh.


ヒュオオオオ
whistle...
What he says... reminds me a lot of Issa-kun.
...His hunch was right.
The virus count's starting to climb.
Could there be something ahead?
The airflow's getting stronger.
Is it opening up!?
Hey! It's getting brighter.
What the heck is he?


Th... there's no path.
Gah!
Kajiyama-san, it's your show.
!
So what are we going to do? We can't go forward like this.
Indeed. It looks like it used to bridge to that passageway over there.
It's because of the earthquake earlier. There's evidence that it collapsed.


shuk-shuck
rustle
So you knew about my specialty, eh? Shoulda figured~!!
All right
rummage
rummage
Hmm... which was it?
What are you going to do with that handheld cannon?
Heh heh heh.
Shell Number 9!
Aah, here it is, here it is.
You put this fellow in here, and then...
clunk
These are my self-invented rigged shells.


snap
Our target's that tunnel, right?
kashink
Grappling Hook Cannon!!
voosh
hurtle


thock
thock
clack
Got-cha!
Huh. These things are sturdier than they look.
We can all cross using them.
Heh heh. They're special-issue super-strength steel wires courtesy of the Engineering Corps.
Nanbu, you and Kaji-yama cross over first and check for any Dracules.
Sure thing.
You sure this thing isn't going to snap?
Bad foot-ing.
You're a rookie, so you follow Sazanami.
Yes, sir.


...and we'd all fall, no?
Unless I stand guard here, the Dracules could show up and cut the lines...
I'll cross after everyone else does.
What about you, Hibiki-san?
That's true.
shudder
Whoa!
skim
grip
No Dracules around.
Hey, we're clear over here.
I'm heavy, you know!
tap
Chill, it's sturdy enough.
Shut up, don't make the lines sway!

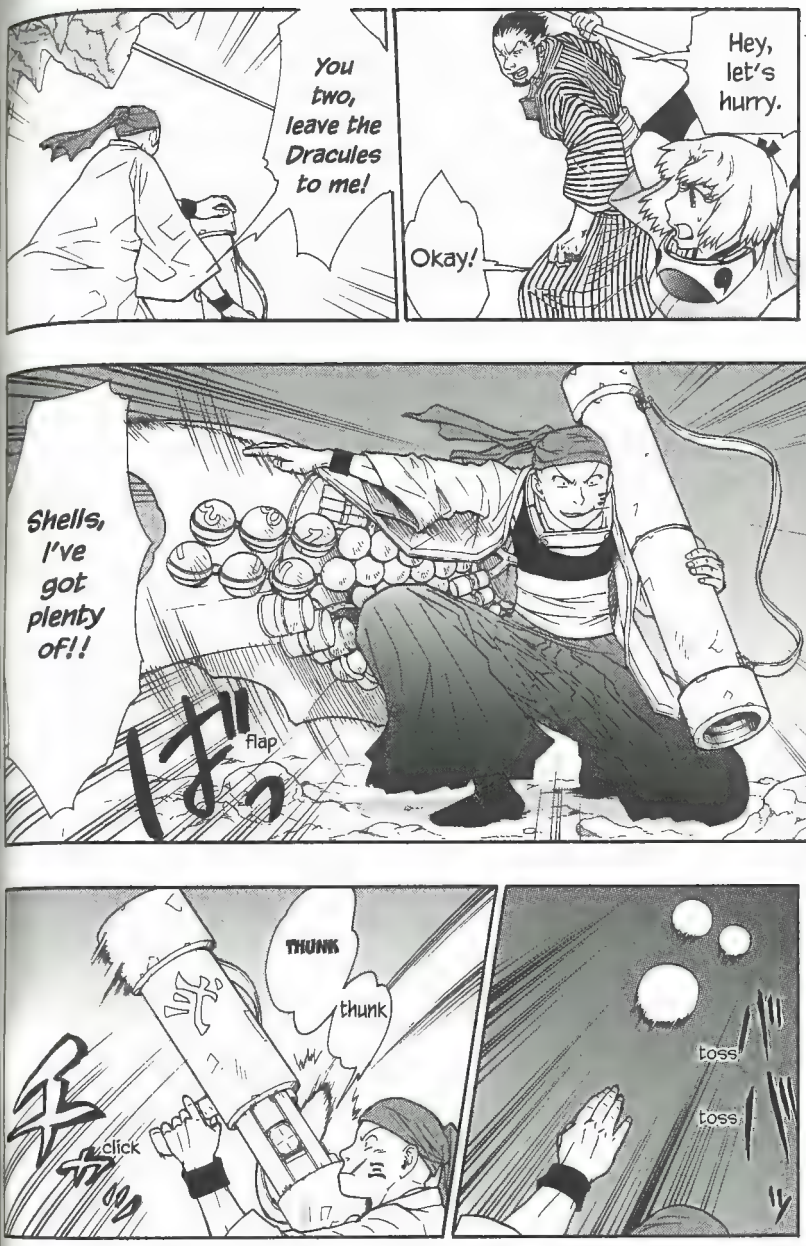

whoooosh
Hey girlie, be careful.
It's Mikami!
gust
I should just not look down.
whooooosh
!?
FLICK!!

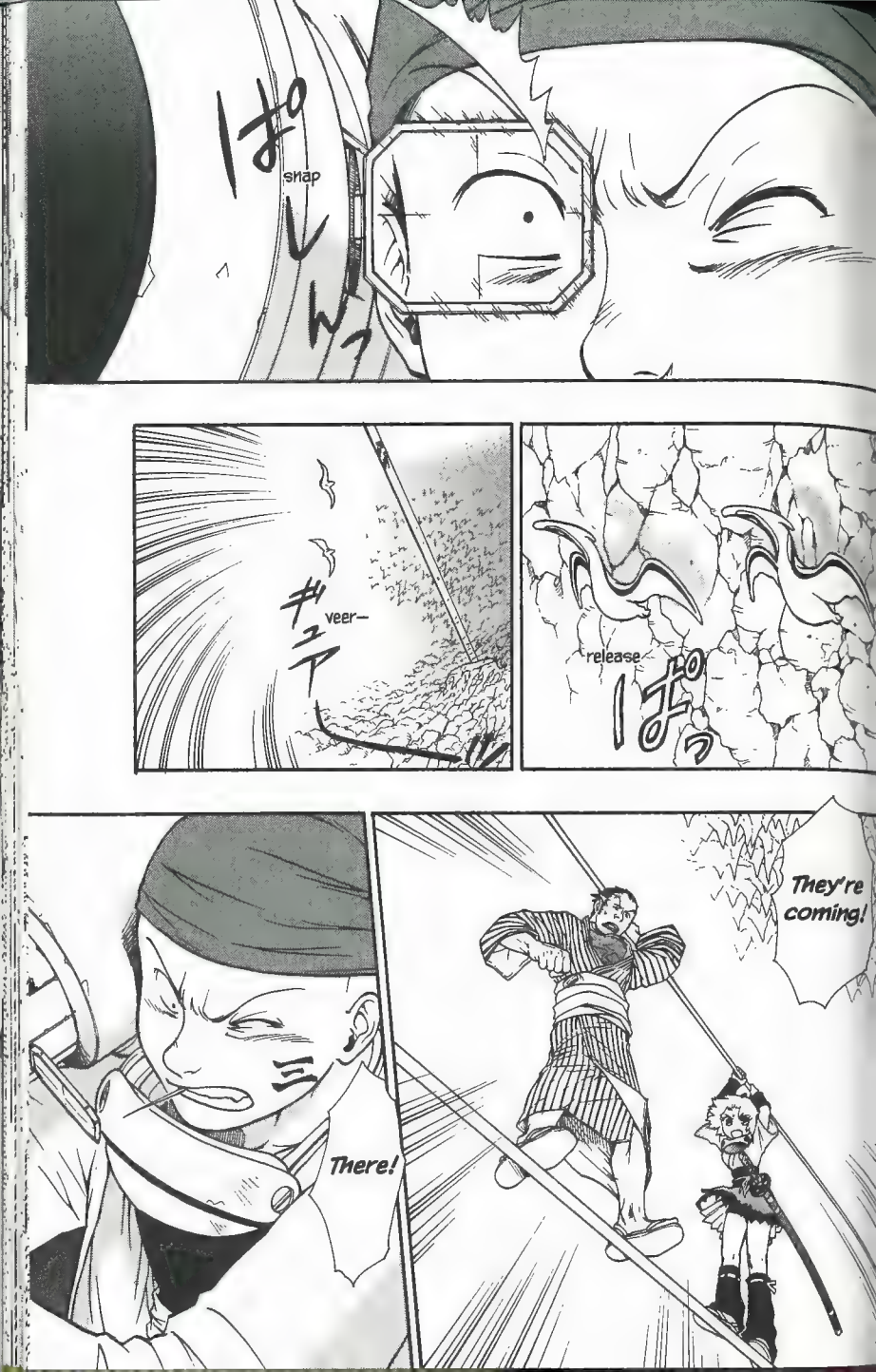

What's the matter -?
Nothing... just the wind.
.....
GLANCE
What could it be...?
The virus count just shot up!!
What!?


!?
Above you!
POP
unfurrrrl
POP
sway
sway
dangle
dangle


release
release
They're not stalac-tites!!
swoop
swoop
Waah!
!?

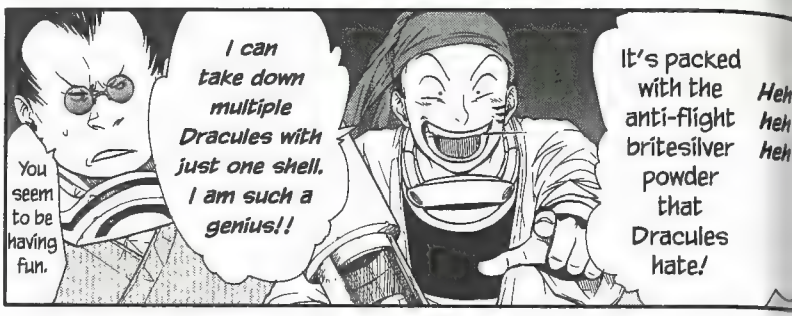

veer
Hey!
lean
clamp
clamp
pitch
pitch
... Ugh.
pitch


You two, leave the Dracules to me!
Hey, let's hurry.
Okay!
Shells, I've got plenty of!!
flap
THUNK
thunk
click
toss
toss


snap
veer—
release
They're coming!
There!


blast
voooosh
flash
Silver Missile!!


sunder
disperse
blast


You seem to be having fun.
I can take down multiple Dracules with just one shell. I am such a genius!!
It's packed with the anti-flight britesilver powder that Dracules hate!
Heh heh heh


Don't let your guard down!
It's not over yet!!

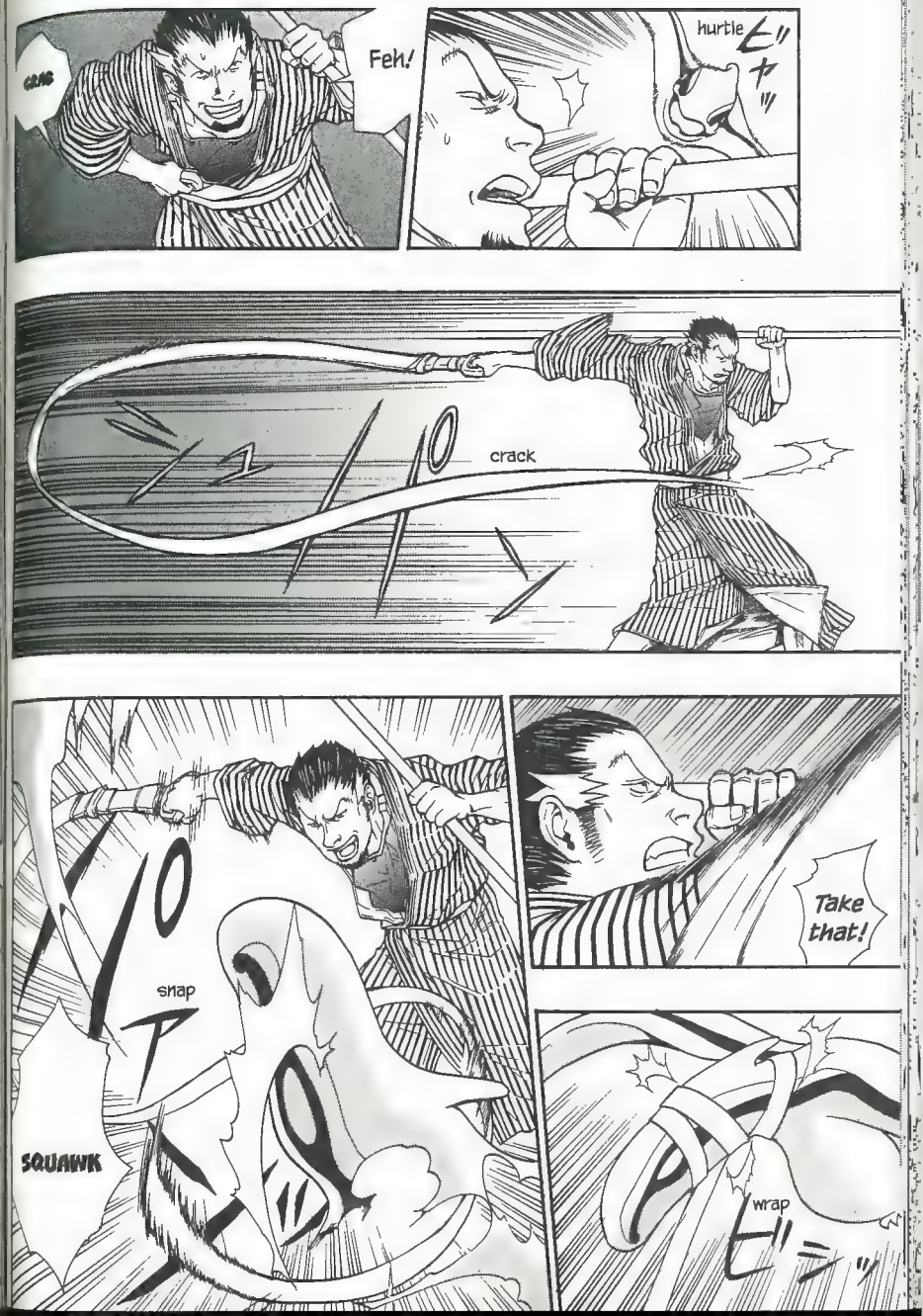

Hey! You're going to blow us to bits, too!
Don't worry. It has no effect on humans.

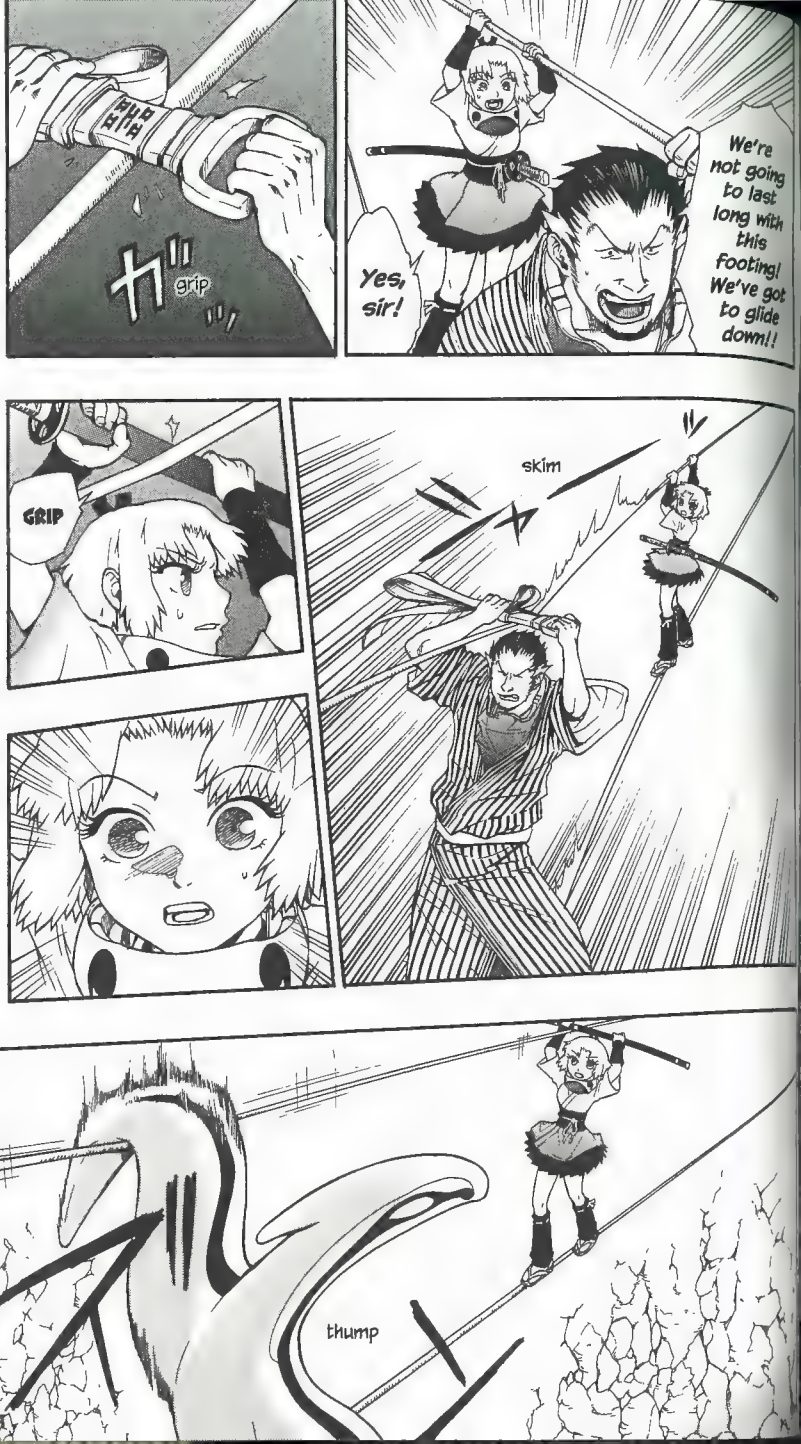

hurtle
This place is a Dracule lair!
Shoot!!
hurtle
drop
blast
blast
Hurry up!! I'll cover!
Darn it!
hoist
Just ignore them and rush it!!!
splat
sunder


don't tell me they're all...
Hey
sway
sway
sway
drop
drop
POP
Whoosssh
POP
Whoosssh
Whoosssh


kneel
Om.
キュキュ
sign sign
It's use-less!!!
flare
High-Flyers' Trap-net spell!!


sunder
sunder
skim
sunder
sunder
sunder
Hurry up and cross now, while you still can!!
Sure thing!
scatter
They were de-stroyed!
It's...a High-Flyers' Trap-ne spell!
I'm not a specialist, so they don't last long.
Just a little.
Hey you can use spell


GRAB
Feh!
hurtle
crack
Take that!
snap
SQUAWK
wrap


grip
Yes, sir!
We're not going to last long with this footing! We've got to glide down!!
GRIP
skim
thump


LEER
slash
Ugh!
Mikami-chan!!
snag
!
?
slip
Sacred Blade, Shimon School...


Sweeping willow!
whip-whip-whip
Yes!!
splat-scaaaatter

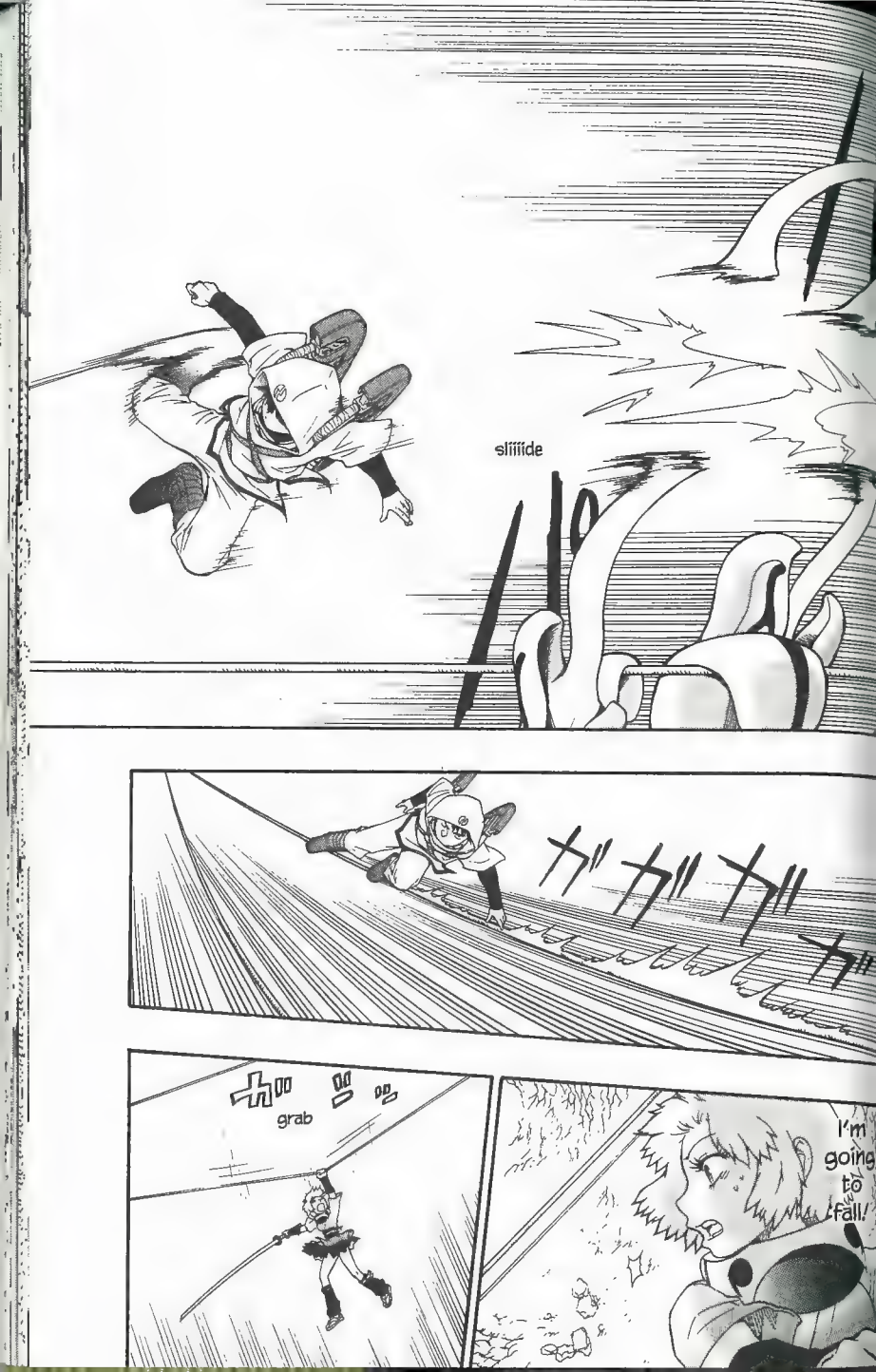

I've got to get across quickly!!
The footing's bad, so I can't rely on it like usual...
wobble
slip
whoosh
whoosh
My spells are at their limits, too...
dash
I've used up all of my Silver Missiles, so hurry up and cross!
My other shells will cut through the lines!
creak...
!!


slash
Unh.
Wha...
lash
slip
Shoot!!
buckle
slice
slice
slice


clamp
clamp
clamp
Hey!
I'm going to be killed...!
hoist


crouch
spring
launch


slaaash
sunder
!!


sliiiide
grab
I'm going to fall!


loom
twirl
smash

whirl
baam


!!!
thump
thump


crouch
leap
drop
thwack
thwack


He took them down with his bare hands!!
sunder
sunder
On this footing, too... wow!
fray
fray...
!
This rope's going to snap!!
TATTER...


swoop
I thought you said this stuff was sturdy!!
GRIP
Y...
Yes, sir!!
Go on without me!!
What?
skim


dodge
lash
leap
bind
bind
!!?

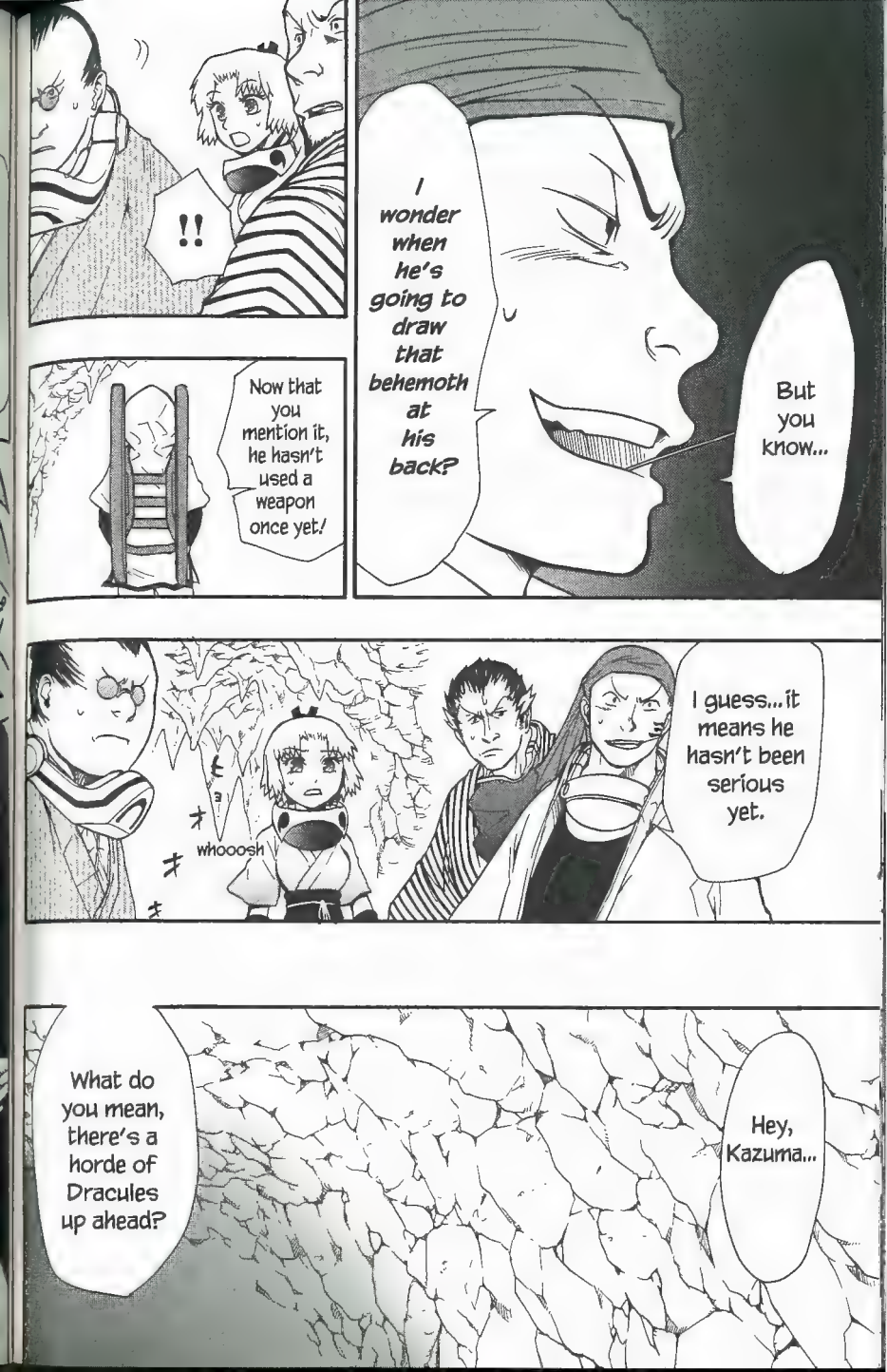

I'm counting on you.
tighten
jerk
SQUEAL
tighten
snap
flap
flap
flap
snap off
clamp
skim
SQUAWK
SQUAWK


He used a Dracule to his advantage!
What about Hibiki-san!?
Are you all right!?
skim...
release
Duck.
Huh?
Hey, you okay!?
brake
Hibiki-san!


swoop
thwap


……
sunder
scatter
シュウゥ
fizzle


Feh, not even strong enough for a warm-up.
Small fry.
Now, let's get going.
step
step
That... seems to have been the last of them.
.....
.....
!!
Well, it seems he's at least more than just a big mouth.
You mean he's got enough punch to back up his words.
This person... exactly who and what is he?


!!
I wonder when he's going to draw that behemoth at his back?
But you know...
Now that you mention it, he hasn't used a weapon once yet!
whoooosh
I guess...it means he hasn't been serious yet.
What do you mean, there's a horde of Dracules up ahead?
Hey, Kazuma...


Are you sure you didn't make a mistake?
So even if they're there, there can't be too many of them.
The virus count hasn't climbed much.
!
shiver
shiver
shiver
shiver
...some way of seeing things ordinary humans can't perceive.
It's like he's got...
But what with the rampage earlier, what is up with him?
It doesn't look like he's joking...


draaag
Hey, in any case...
Shh!!
draaag
draaag
emerge...
Let's proceed covertly from here on out.
I'd rather not let them know we're here.
What the? It was just one. Why do we have to hide!?
Phew.


From here, we can conceal ourselves.


Let who know? They're just low-level Dracules, right?
I don't know for sure, so please follow my lead.


.....


What with the previous mission, your rampage earlier,
I can see that you pick up on something, and then go along with it.
And I have no intention of questioning that.


Kazuma... it seems you've got...
...some mysterious *power* ordinary folk don't have.
Eh?


So if you do have some special ability...that's what they're paying you for.
After all, you've been given the rank of captain, no matter how temporarily.


However, if you ask me, it's no more than a *hunch* that only works in certain situations.
scratch
Wow—
scratch
Your unique ways of doing things generally succeed and are regarded positively...
...but at the same time, they bear great risk as well.
Therefore, I will not acknowledge you.
And when you make a mistake, tragic victims result.

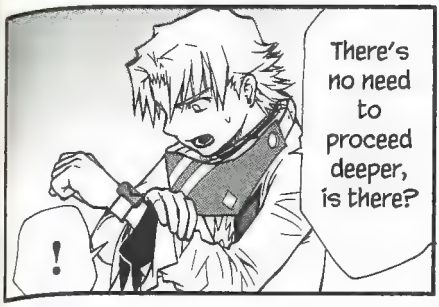

I told you before that I would go after your head.
But I realized that was too soft.
I've decided to change tactics.
For I've discovered just how dangerous a fellow you are these past few days.
Therefore, I've decided to stick close to you in Squad Zero and watch you.
And I'm going to continue looking into the truth behind that incident six years ago as well.
I intend on finding evidence that your errors led to the death of my sister... innocent folk.
Once I have definitive proof, I'm going to turn everything over to Central VIUS Headquarters.
If you think you can die and vanish from this world without receiving any censure, you are too naïve.
VIUS
VIUS
VIUS


Kazuma, you will be formally and publicly tried as a murderer.
Your distinguished record as a VIUS will be obliterated and your social status will drop lower than the deepest abyss.
You will then live out the rest of your life as a convict.
Painfully. That will be my revenge against you.
scratch
scratch
Wow~.
grin
I am so glad you came over to Squad Zero.

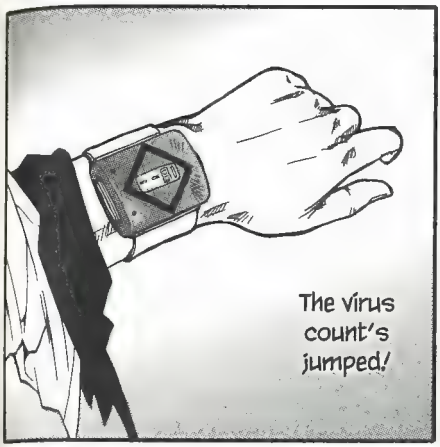

I really do think you're a sharp fellow.
Oh, no.
You seem... so relaxed about it. Or are you mocking me again!?
!?
So I feel at ease knowing that someone like you is watching me.
You know, Yukimura, I am a dangerous fellow.
Are you trying to sidetrack this conversation!!?
Again, what a confusing comment...!
That's why I need these fetters.
Everything's just as you say.


I am allowed to live on the condition that I wear these fetters...
In some ways, I'm Mikuni's dog.
So please, do keep watching like you say you will.
Because that's the best thing for me.
Wh... what!?
.....
In short, just do whatever you want to do.
As usual, you start speaking nonsense...!! What exactly are you!?
Quit joking around!
A-ha-ha~~ that's the thing. I don't even really know.

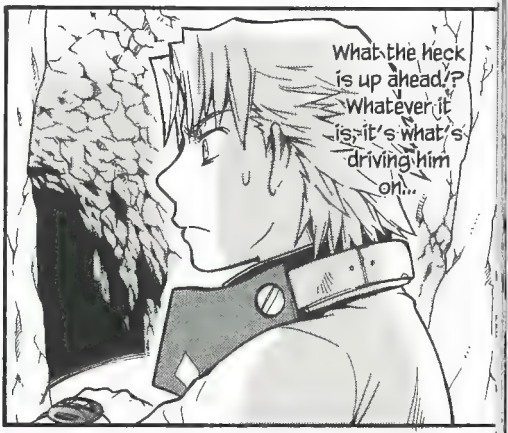

whoosh
Outside smells... this path leads out of here!!
waft
!
Hey! We're saved!
!?
dooom
dooooom


There's no need to proceed deeper, is there?
!


What!?
Yukimura, you go on ahead. I've got to go further in.

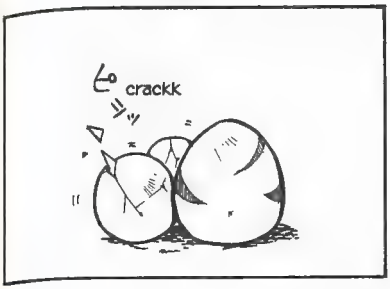

The virus count's jumped!

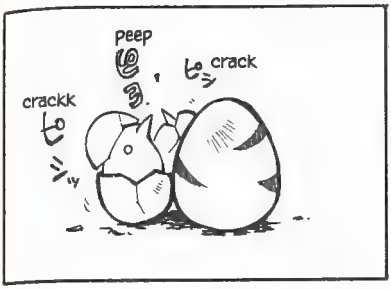

Fine. But I'm coming along.
Huh?

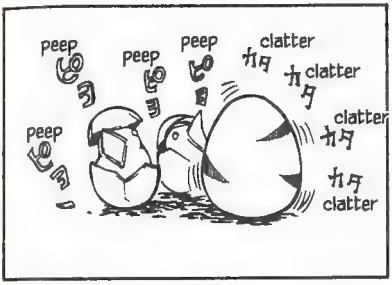

What the heck is up ahead!? Whatever it is, it's what's driving him on...


I told you I'm going to watch you.
Don't think you can escape from me.
dooooom
Dragon Eye 2 END

Eggs









Dragon Eye

4-Cell Strip Extras

Thanks
for buying
volume 2!

Please buy
volume 3,
too.

Fujiyama

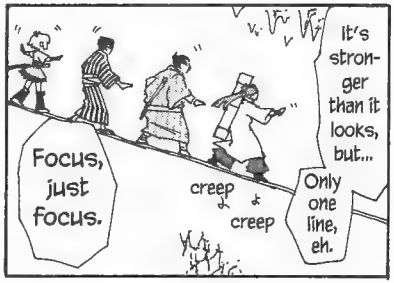
staff

- Uemura Erika
- Ueda Satomi

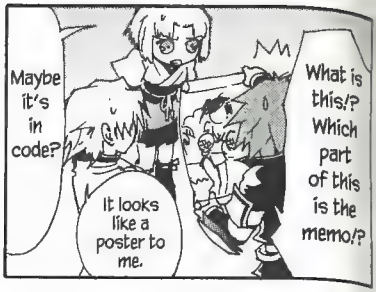
thanks

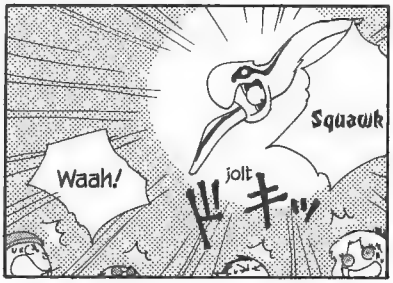
- Yuzuka

Rope-walking

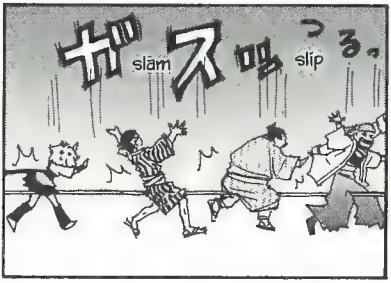


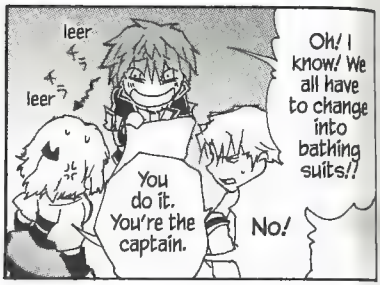
Memo



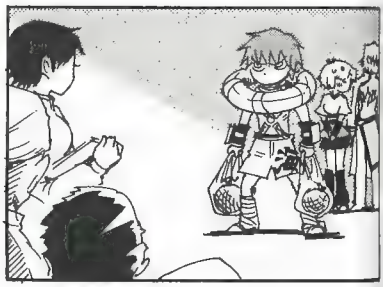










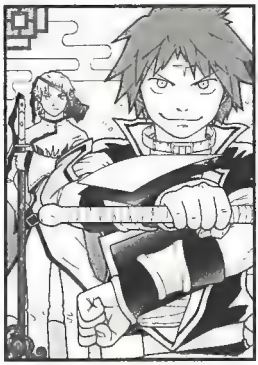


TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural difference is used.

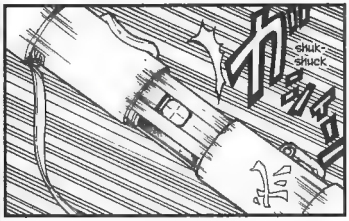
Troop designation symbols, various pages

Most Vius members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, Sôsei, Leila, and three others wear veils embossed with 零 – "zero." Squad Five Captain Kiura wears a veil with the old form of five, 伍, on it, and Hibiki wears 陸, the older way of writing the number six, on the front of his mask. The only thing that is not yet clear is why Kajiyama has 三 (three) tattooed on his left cheek, since he is a Squad Two member (his gun has 弐 [two] embossed on it).

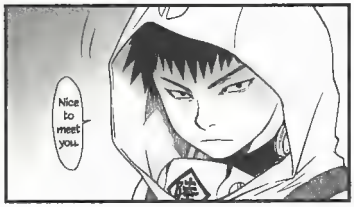








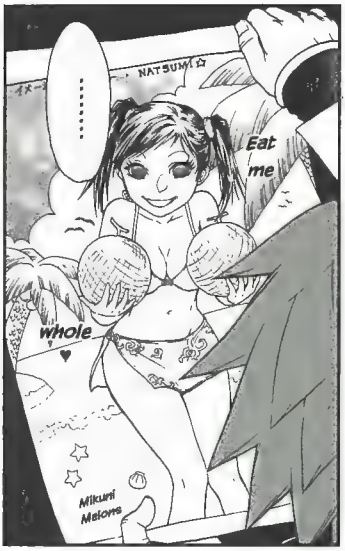




Kanikama, page 82

Short for *kani kamaboko*, or imitation crabmeat. Usually made from pollock or another whitefish, it is pressed into blocklike sticks or large flakes with one border artificially dyed red to look like the real thing. Most well known in America in the context of sushi (i.e. California rolls). Here, Issa mistakenly thinks Kajiyama's name is Kanikama.





Pin-up poster, page 74

Established and up-and-coming actors and singers are often hired for advertising campaigns, in this case a summer melon promotion for either a fruit farm or fruit distribution company.



Sacred Blade, Shimon School, page 156

A school of martial arts founded by Leila's pre-VIUS mentor, Master Shimon. Practitioners flow so gracefully and effortlessly through complex moves that they appear to be sword dancing.

Tonkotsu, page 84

Tonkotsu ["pork bone"] describes a type of ramen broth as well as literally what goes into making it. Supposedly originating from the Hakata area of Fukuoka City in Kyûshû, it is best when the pork bones, onions, and garlic have been stewed for many hours. Ramen noodles are added to the strained soup, which are then typically topped with sliced pork, dried seaweed, chopped scallions, and pickled ginger and bamboo shoots.



PREVIEW OF VOLUME 3 OF *DRAGON EYE*

We are pleased to present to you a preview from the next volume of *Dragon Eye*. Volume 3 will be available in English on December 26, 2007, but for now, you'll have to make do with Japanese!

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